Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Reportage on 93d Session of Arab League Council

Members Prepare Session Agenda

LD0703155690 Algiers APS in English 1054 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] Tunis, 7 March (APS)—The permanent representatives of the Arab States at the Arab League and its general secretary, Chedli Klibi, held Tuesday at the headquarters of the Pan-Arab Organization for preparing the 93rd ordinary session of the Ministerial Council of the League due to next Saturday. [sentence as received]

According to a close source, the agenda includes the examination of a number of questions notably the Palestinian problem, the situation between Iraq and Iran, the Euro-Arab dialogue as well as the cooperation of the Arab countries with those of Africa and Latin America.

The same source added that the session which will examine a number of economic questions interesting the Arab world will debate the proposals of the former president of the Italian Council and present private representation of the UN general secretary for question of the developing countries debts.

Council's Proceedings Previewed

LD0903145290 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Text] The proceedings of the 93d ordinary session of the Arab League Council will start in Tunis tomorrow evening. The session, which is expected to last three days, will be chaired by Palestine, and a large number of Arab foreign ministers will participate.

The draft agenda of the session consists of discussion of a number of issues, the most important of which are: the developments of the Palestinian cause; the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the popular uprising in the occupied territories; the emigration of Soviet Jews; and also the Iraq-Iran situation, Arab-African relations, the Arab-European dialogue, and Arab-Latin American cooperation. The council will also discuss in this session the suggestions of Mr. Bettino Craxi, the UN secretary general's special representative in charge of the dossier of debts of developing countries, which will be the topic of the UN General Assembly special session scheduled for next June.

It is worth mentioning that the Arab League Council holds two ordinary sessions every year, the first in March and the second in September, and the Arab states chair them in turn according to Arabic alphabetical order.

Syria's Al-Shar' Arrives

JN1003170090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Tunis this afternoon to head the Syrian delegation to the 93d ordinary session of the Arab League Council, which will start its meetings this evening.

He was received at Tunis airport by Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi; the two assistant Arab League secretary generals Lakhdar Ibrahimi and 'Adnan 'Imran; Mohamed Amamou, Tunisian secretary of state attached to the foreign minister in charge of Maghreb affairs; Syrian Ambassador in Tunis Ahmad 'Isa; the embassy staff, and ranking Arab League officials.

Al-Shar' Meets Omani Official

JN1103070890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Tunis—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met last night with Yusuf Bin-al-'Alawi, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs.

During the meeting, talks dealt with fraternal bilateral ties, and the two ministers also reviewed the topics listed on the agenda of the 93d ordinary session of the Arab League Council, which began in Tunis last night. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' is heading the Syrian Arab delegation to the meetings of this session which is being attended by Arab foreign ministers. [passage omitted]

Al-Shar' Meets Saudi Counterpart

JN1103153390 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met today in Tunis with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. They discussed relations between the two fraternal countries and reviewed the subjects on the agenda of the 93d ordinary session of the Arab League Council, currently convening in Tunis.

Al-Shar' Meets Egyptian Counterpart

JN1103190790 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1755 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] Tunis, 11 Mar (SANA)—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met here today with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egypt's deputy prime minister and foreign minister. Syria's and Egypt's representatives at the Arab League attended. They discussed relations between the two fraternal countries and reviewed the agenda of the 93d session of the Arab League Council, currently convening in Tunis.

The current session of the Arab League Council resumed its meetings this evening to discuss business on its agenda.

Kuwait's Foreign Minister Holds Talks

LD0903211990 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1926 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Text] Tunis, 9 Mar (KUNA)—The deputy prime minister and foreign minister met in his residence here tonight with the Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, and later with the Tunisian foreign affairs minister, Ismail Khelil. Sources close to the Kuwaiti delegation accompanying Shaykh Sabah said that the two meetings covered bilateral relations and the agenda of the Arab League Ministerial Council session due to begin tomorrow.

Shaykh Sabah arrived here earlier today to take part in the session.

Iraq's 'Aziz, Chedli Klibi Confer

JN1003202190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] Tunis, 10 Mar (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met here today with Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League.

During the meeting, they discussed ways to enhance joint Arab action through coordinating the stands of Arab states on current issues. Their discussions also tackled the topics listed on the agenda of the 93d session of the Arab League Council which will be opened here later today.

It is to be recalled that Tariq 'Aziz is heading the Iraqi delegation to meetings of the Arab League Council.

Secretariat HQ To Return to Cairo

NC1103123790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1146 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] Tunis, 11 Mar (MENA)—MENA has learned that the Arab foreign ministers have reached an agreement on transferring the headquarters of the Arab League Secretariat to Cairo.

The agreement provides for returning the League's Secretariat and employees to Cairo and keeping the office of the Arab Organization for Education, Culture, and Science in Tunis.

The agreement will be officially announced at a later date.

Foreign Ministers Announce Move

JN1103133090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1255 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] Tunis—The Arab foreign ministers have announced that the Arab League headquarters will be transferred from Tunis to Cairo as of the Arab League's September session.

During the meetings of the Arab League Council's 93d session, which continue here today, the foreign ministers decided to set up an Arab League center in Tunis and consider Tunis the permanent headquarters of the Arab League Education, Culture, and Science Organization, ALESCO; the Arab Interior Ministers Council; and the Arab Broadcasting Union.

They also decided to complete the building of the Arab League offices in Tunis in accordance with the resolutions of the Fes and Amman summits, and settle fairly the situation of the League's employees and staff.

The Arab foreign ministers asserted that the decision to transfer the Arab League Headquarters to Cairo is based on Clause 10 of the Arab League Charter, the resolutions of the ninth Arab summit of 1978, and the resolutions of the Arab League Council in Baghdad in 1979.

The Arab League Council has decided to form a committee headed by Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and comprising the foreign ministers of Egypt, Tunis, Morocco, Oman, and the Arab League secretary general to study the future arrangements to implement this decision. The committee is to submit its report to the September session of the Arab League Council.

Egypt's 'Abd-al-Majid Comments

NC1103135090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1325 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] Tunis, 11 Mar (MENA)—A decision was issued today transferring the headquarters of the Arab League Secretariat from its temporary headquarters in Tunis to its permanent headquarters in Cairo. This was stated by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

'Abd-al-Majid said that the transfer will be completed on 1 September. He added that this decision is fully in line with the Arab League Charter.

'Abd-al-Majid pointed out that Egypt had been eager to reach a consensus with Tunisia on this subject in view of the strong relations between the Egyptian and Tunisian leaders and peoples.

'Abd-al-Majid said that the spirit which led to this decision was expressed by Egypt on several occasions. The Egyptian Government had always stressed that the return of the Arab League to its permanent headquarters should be handled with an open heart and mind.

'Abd-al-Majid expressed his appreciation for the efforts of Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, as well as for the efforts of the committee comprised of Iraq, Oman, Morocco, Tunisia, and Egypt.

'Abd-al-Majid stressed that the discussions were frank and characterized by a desire to reach a consensus. Egypt considers this to be a good sign which points the way for tackling problems among Arab states in the future.

In conclusion, 'Abd-al-Majid expressed the hope that the transfer would be done with understanding and in a way

that safeguards the interests of the Egyptian and Tunisian people and Arab interests in general.

'Second Headquarters' in Tunis

LD1203013590 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Excerpt] The Arab League Council today reached a unanimous agreement to divide the institutions of the Arab joint action [as heard] between Tunis and Cairo. This agreement stipulates that Tunis will become the second headquarters of the Arab League in addition to the latter's permanent headquarters which, according to the Arab League's Charter, must be in Cairo.

It was learned from a source close to the Tunisian delegation attending the current session that the agreement reached today stipulates that Tunis becomes the permanent headquarters of three major Arab institutions which are the Arab Organization for Education, Culture, and Sciences, the Arab Broadcasting Union, and the General Secretariat of the Arab Interior Ministers' Council. The agreement also stipulates that Tunis will become the second headquarters of the Arab League which could host various Arab conferences and seminars, in the same way as Geneva is the second headquarters of the UN Organization in addition to its main headquarters in New York.

The same source added that the agreement also stipulates the completion of the construction of the new Arab League Headquarters in Tunis and the construction work should continue at a quicker pace so as to house the permanent headquarters of the three Arab organizations which were in the Tunisian capital on a temporary basis.

The agreement also stipulates that the decision on the return of the Arab League to Cairo should be made and announced at the forthcoming session of the Arab League Council in light of the report to be prepared by the special five-member committee which will examine the subject from all angles. The same source also indicated this committee included Morocco, Iraq, Oman, Tunisia, Egypt, and the Arab League secretary general.

Moreover, the agreement stipulates that adequate compensation be offered to the Tunisian employees in the Arab League who prefer to stay in Tunis when the League returns to its permanent headquarters in Cairo. The same source also said that all the heads of the Arab delegations expressed in their interventions their great appreciation for the outstanding role played by Tunisia and President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in serving the Arab causes, reinforcing the joint Arab action, and consolidating Arab solidarity either by housing the Arab League or by introducing [as heard] the Arab causes, primarily the Arabs' central cause, the Palestinian cause, for which it gained more supporters in various parts of the world.

The same source then pointed out that Tunisia never considered the question of the League's headquarters as a Tunisian problem, an Egyptian problem, or a Tunisian-Egyptian problem, but as an Arab matter resulting from an Arab consensus reached at the Baghdad summit. He added that Tunisia believed in the Arab League Charter which stipulates that Cairo is the League's permanent headquarters and that today's agreement, reached by Arab consensus, in fact constituted the implementation of the final phase of the decisions taken at the Casablanca Arab Summit held in May 1989 and on the basis of which Egypt recovered its seat as a member of the Arab League. [passage omitted]

Soviet Jews' Immigration Discussed

LD1103150190 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] The Arab League Ministerial Council today continues the proceedings of its 93d session at the level of foreign ministers, under the chairmanship of Palestine, and attended by 18 foreign ministers. At this session, which began last night and will last three days, the Council is examining a number of topics, foremost of which are developments concerning the Palestinian problem and the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the intifadah in the occupied territories, the immigration of Soviet Jews, Arab-African relations, and the Arab-European dialogue. The Council is also examining the proposals of Bettino Craxi, the UN secretary general's special envoy in charge of the Third World's debt.

The opening session was characterized by the address made by the Arab League's secretary general, in which he called on the international community to halt the immigration of Soviet Jews to the occupied Arab territories. He stressed that stopping these waves is a vital mater which must take place immediately if the major powers have the real intention of bringing peace and security to the region within the framework of the new international relations which are based upon just principles and humanitarian values. Mr. Chedli Klibi supported his assertions with reports on the size of the Soviet Jews' immigration to occupied Palestine, and pointed out that the average for this immigration is no less than 400 emigrants arriving daily in the occupied territories. He pointed out that such an average will increase, and would thereby encourage Israel's ambitions of expansion and hegemony, and rejection of political solutions.

Mr. Faruq Qaddumi, chairman of the session and head of the PLO Political Department, stressed that the Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine from the Soviet Union and other countries puts difficult choices before the Arabs. In his address at the opening session he pointed out that the Soviet Union has been a friendly country which had stood, and still stands by the side of Palestinians. This, however, should not lead us to accept what we are seeing and witnessing, he said, and pointed out the need for a constructive dialogue to resolve this problem. The Palestinian offical asserted that the new onslaught harms pan-Arab security as a whole, and goes beyond the borders of Palestine and its core cause.

Soviet Message on Immigration

LD1203015590 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] The Soviet Government has expressed its hope that the Arab League session in Tunis would adopt a balanced and a constructive stance on the Soviet Jews' emigration to occupied territories in order to create harmony between the efforts of both the Soviet Union and Arab countries, aimed at confronting Israel's policy to settle Soviet Jews in occupied territories.

The Soviet Government stressed, in a message to the meeting of the Arab League Ministerial Council, that it would count on Arab countries' understanding, given their relations of friendship and cooperation. The message pointed out that Moscow shares Arab countries' concern over Israel's goals of changing the demographic map in the occupied territories by displacing the native Palestinians.

'Abd-al-Majid Leaves Tunis for Riyadh

NC1103190290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1838 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] Tunis, 11 Mar (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Tunis for Riyadh tonight. He was accompanied by Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister of Saudi Arabia.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid will lead Egypt's delegation to the meetings of the joint Egyptian-Saudi committee which will begin in Riyadh tomorrow and last three days.

Earlier today, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid met with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' on the sidelines of the meetings of the 93d session of the Arab League Council. Ways of bolstering and developing the relations between Egypt and Syria were discussed.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Terms Soviet Jews' Immigration 'Illegal'

NC1103221290 Cairo MENA in English 2203 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] Tunis, Mar 11 (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat warned against the danger of the migration of Soviet Jews and East Europe's Jews to the occupied Arab territories. He said this migration is illegal and violates the international covenants and conventions. In his today's speech before the nine-man committee, affiliated to the Non-Aligned Movement, 'Arafat said this migration is a burglary act, which comes within the context of the scheme of the Greater Israel, which the Israeli Government tries to implement. The Israeli decision to settle the Jewish emigrants in the occupied Arab territories aims at changing the demographic structure of the occupied Arab territories, 'Arafat said.

'Arafat said the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Soviet Union signed an agreement on the migration of Soviet Jews to Israel. The agreement includes the non-organisation of direct flights between the Soviet Union and Israel, the granting of each Soviet Jewish emigrant a five-year valid passport and ensuring the right of each emigrant to return to the Soviet Union.

PLO's Khalaf Calls For 'Arab Summit Conference'

PM0903154390 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 3 Mar 90 p 3

[Report on a telephone interview with Fatah Central Committee Member Salah Khalaf, also indentified by his nom de guerre Abu-Iyad, by Muhammad Mahjub in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] While five Likud members were announcing their resignations as Shamir continued his maneuvers by stating that, in principle, he accepts U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's compromise formula for forming the Palestinian delegation to talks with an Israeli delegation in Cairo, 'UKAZ interviewed Salah Khalaf (Abu-Iyad), the second man in the PLO. Commenting on Shamir's statement, Abu-Iyad said:

Regardless of whether Shamir approves or disapproves, we are committed to the Palestine Central Council's resolutions stipulating that the PLO is the party which should select and announce the formation of the delegation, that the agenda should be open and should include elections and everything else that could lead to a final solution of the problem, and that there should be international supervision of such a meeting through the superpowers and the United Nations. These are our terms.

He added: If Shamir accepted these terms, then that would be fine. I do not believe that Shamir has accepted the Labor Party's proposals, and reports indicate that he is still intransigent even regarding the formalities he agreed with the Labor Party on the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. As regards the resignation of the five Likud Knesset deputies, they had actually left the Likud bloc in the Knesset. The Likud bloc had 40 members, five have left, so it now has 35 members, which of course weakens the Likud bloc in the Knesset and in the eyes of the public. However, we note with regret that the hardliners still have the upper hand in Israel.

On the restoration of Israeli-Polish relations, he said: Since the changes in the socialist states, they have all been moving in that direction. We cannot interfere in the affairs of any state. They are free to make their own decisions, but this does show the effect of these changes on the policies of these states, particularly regarding Israel. We had not asked Poland or any other state to sever its relations with Israel, and it is not for us to ask it why it has resumed its relations with Israel. As Arabs, however, we should pay more attention to these states, especially in the economic field, because if we left the

arena to the United States and Israel the day would come when our relations with them would be much worse.

Asked why the Soviet Union continues to allow the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel despite its special relations with the PLO, he said: We have stated our position against such emigration from the Soviet Union or anywhere else. Because the emigration from the Soviet Union has been massive and because their destination is the settlements in occupied Arab territory, we have discussed all aspects of the issue with the Soviet Union and used every method of persuasion, but it seems that the United States is putting great pressure on the Soviet Union not only to allow emigration but also to make it direct to Israel by opening a direct air route between Moscow and Tel Aviv. The U.S. Congress' position and conditions for giving economic aid to the Soviet Union are all linked to this matter.

We should put pressure on the United States and the Soviet Union to stop this crime, because the continued influx of immigrants is a crime against the Palestinian people and the Arab and Islamic nations. If the immigration continued it would mean that a second Israel would emerge, and this time not only at the expense of the Palestinian people but also at the expense of the Arab and Islamic nations.

Asked by 'UKAZ about his concept of Arab pressure, Abu-Iyad said that there should be a unified Arab stand. This matter, he said, calls for an Arab summit conference, which could also discuss Lebanon and other issues.

Hamas Rejects Unified Leadership, Election Plan

JN0903115790 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has explained that it does not intend to join the national leadership in the territories because the movement does not agree with the political line adopted by the Palestinian organization, the PLO. This was reported by the magazine SAWT AL-AQSA, Hamas' mouthpiece in the United States. Hamas denied recent statement by Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf] that the movement is part of the PLO. It said the resolutions of the Palestine National Council are not binding on Hamas. The movement declared it does not intend to join the Palestinian delegation for a dialogue with Israel. It further said it categorically rejected the election plan.

Palestinians Told To 'Confront' Cairo Meeting

JN0603153090 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, today called on the Palestinian people to confront the likely meeting in Cairo between Israeli and Palestinian delegations because, in his opinion, this meeting aims at eliminating the Palestinian intifadah in the occupied territories.

PFLP-GC Issues Statement on Israeli Raid

JN0903150390 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1435 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Statement by Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) military spokesman—date not given]

[Text] 1. At 1230 on Friday, 9 March 1990, a Zionist military formation of six planes raided naval positions belonging to the PFLP-GC [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine] in the northern part of Lebanon. The PFLP-GC's engineering corps estimated that 35 missiles, some of them with timers, were fired at the position.

2. Our casualties: hero martyr Muhammad Shakir Abu-Rami from the PFLP-GC naval corps; wounded: Ahmad Nayif Abu-al-Hayja' from the front's naval cadres; Abu-'Ali al-Kurdi, who was slightly wounded; and a civilian farmer from the Al-Qula'yat village.

This air raid against a PFLP-GC position is part of the campaign by Zionist-U.S. quarters and some Palestinian elements against our front to harm our political stands, which reject capitulation and continue to reject the defeatist trend in the Arab and Palestinian arena. This campaign, as well as these raids, will be doomed to failure. Victory will be the lot of the revolutionaries who do not bargain over Palestine. We pledge to the martyrs that we will pursue armed struggle. Revolution until the liberation of the land and man.

Libya

General People's Congress Session Continues

Statement on U.S. Threats

LD1003045990 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] A statement by the General People's Congress on U.S. threats to the Great Jamahiriyah:

The U.S. Administration has again started to threaten aggression against the Great Jamahiriyah and to attack the medical drugs factory in al-Rabitah. The General People's Congress, convened in its 16th session, stresses the following:

1. The General People's Congress reaffirms that the Libyan Arab people are opposed to all mass destruction weapons, and this was declared in the great Green Document on human rights in the jamahiri society which said: The sons of the jamahiri society call for the banning of nuclear, germ, and chemical weapons, and means of mass destruction, and for the criminalization of those who stock them. They call for the ridding of mankind of all nuclear power stations and the threat of their wastes.

2. The Great Jamahiriyah supports measures put forward by the international community for the verification and inspection of chemical weapons providing that these measures are applied to all countries.

3. The General People's Congress stresses the peaceful nature of the al-Rabitah factory which has previously been stressed by the brother leader, and we stress again to the world public opinion that this factory produces nothing but medicines, and that the Libyan Arab people will defend this factory which was built by its will [words indistinct] its accomplishments [words indistinct], and turns to the masses of the Arab nation to support it vis-a-vis U.S. threats and to join the Libyan Arab people in defending its territories and accomplishments. It calls on the international community to adopt effective and urgent initiatives to put an end to threats and aggression.

4. The General People's Congress questions why some voices are raised when the issue is an Arab issue yet turn a blind eye toward all actions carried out by the racist regimes in occupied Palestine and South Africa. Moreover, they support those regimes in developing mass destruction weapons.

Political Communique Issued

LD1003135590 Tripoli JANA in English 1427 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Rabia [March] 10 (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY)—The General People's Congress issued at the end of its 16th ordinary session the following political communique:

The General People's Congress (the general meeting of the People's Congresses, People's Committees, Vocational Congresses, Syndicates, unions and associations) met at a time of international changes of great significance from the point of view of their depth and political, social, and economic effects under which the most entrenched regimes and theories are retreating and collapsing. These changes give the Jamahiriyah thinking the credibility of ideological intellect and the practical solutions it put forward to the problems of power and wealth in relation to mankind, consolidate daily the dicta heralded by the Green Book including the birth of the masses era which proved the failure of the republics era's instruments of government and their institutions, values and prominent amongst them the downfall of the concepts of party, deputation and representation.

The drawing of the world's attention by the masses of the People's Congresses of these changes and the highlighting of their dialectical relationships with the masses' theory is based in fact on the advance sensing of events and self-confidence resulting from the ideological persuasions as some believe that what we are following is exactly what peoples are seeking and demanding.

The General People's Congress is convening while the society of sovereign people in whose hands lies all power realised on its land of Great Jamahiriyah and all these changes and their effects on Arab, African and international scene, the General People's Congress would like to stress the following:

Firstly, Arab unity is the sole solution to safeguarding the existence of the Arab nation and its future. The General People's Congress salutes the courage of General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir who presented a unionist project between Sudan and Great Jamahiryah. It salutes the Arab Maghreb Union, the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab Cooperation Council calling for their further development for being steps along the path of total Arab unity. It also salutes the current unionist process between South and North Yemen.

Secondly, the General People's Congress reaffirms its total support for the angry generation who are leading the stones' revolution in occupied Palestine in defence of the honour and dignity of the Arab nation. It condemns the migration of Jews from all over the world to the Arab Palestinian territory and holds the United States responsible for this migration which constitutes a gross violation of human rights and aggression against the Palestinian Arab people.

Thirdly, it salutes the African revolutionary Nelson Mandela, the holder of Al-Qadhdhafi prize for peace and human rights, and the people of South Africa who are realising, with their steadfastness, successive victories over the racist regime in southern Africa. It also salutes the victory of the people of Namibia under the leadership of SWAPO and its leader Sam Nujoma after long years of suffering and armed struggle against the racist regime.

Fourthly, the masses of the People's Congress condemn the American invasion of independent Panama which constitutes a gross violation of international laws and customs and reflects clearly the true terrorist face of the American administration.

The masses of the People's Congress cannot, whatever the pretext may be, accept the American invasion of Panama which in as much as it entrenches a well defined method of the policy of an international power for the use of force and aggression it creates a dangerous precedent in international relations at a time the world is witnessing variations and changes in the balance of power which may consolidate further aggression roles than providing opportunities for deterring them.

Fifthly, the masses of the People's Congress reassert the alliance of the Arab nation [words indistinct] peoples in congronting capitalism, Zionism and racism and consider the historic changes taking place in Eastern Europe as a popular revolution against the dictatorship of parties. The theories of tittulage and representation and that these changes enhance the credibility of the Jamahiriyah theory and reassert that what peoples are seeking in their struggle is people's power as a substitute for all traditional forms of power.

In conformity with this vision, the General People's Congress decides to send delegations to the Eastern European countries and peoples so as to consolidate the relationship with them and conduct dialogue with them so as to deepen the common foundations which regulate these changes in favour of the masses and their aspirations.

Sends Message to Al-Qadhdhafi

LD1003211690 Tripoli JANA in English 1822 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Rabia 10 [10 March] JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The General People's Congress sent, at the end of its proceedings last night, the following message to the leader of the revolution:

Dear brother leader of the great al-Fatih revolution, the internationalist leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the masses of the People's Congresses, in their general meeting (the General People's Congress 16th ordinary session) met with you in Tripoli with full feelings of love, pride and appreciation on the occasion of the 13th anniversary of the proclamation of people's power and the birth of the first Jamahiriyah in history to renew to you their vow of loyalty and commitment to responsibility while they are more determined and willing to realise the programme of revolutionary change guided by your humanitarian thinking and orientations in which the masses feel the sincerity and determination of revolutionaries and firmness of men at a time of difficulties and changes and find in your suffering for a better tomorrow for the masses the depth of belief in the fate of mankind in total freedom which knows no bounds and not restricted by any shackled and not remote from the source of emancipation contained in the green thinking which does not know any discrimination based on race, colour, religion or culture, for the world of mankind in your thinking is as wide as the eternal Jamahiriyah's dicta which would open the door of freedom before the oppressed and prepare the ground throughout the globe for the start of the Jamahiri (masses) era made by people, with sweat, blood and stones, in the east, west, north and south.

Dear leader,

We are overwhelmed with pride and joy in living and being guided by people's power and enjoying it upon your instigation and guidance. The end of the era of fixed sun and falsehood of its ideologies, parties and institutions where events show the bankruptcy of the theories of unjustice and exploitation, the collapse of the instruments of traditional government. Our belief is enhanced further as we see how the jamahiri thinking is leaving its fingerprints on the changes taking place in this era despite the efforts, criticism and denial by the forces of evil and aggression and above all that the struggle of peoples is being enhanced so as to realise the highest goal—the power of all people as a substitute for all forms of alienation, the usurpation and farce [as received] of power away from those who have the right to exercise power.

Dear leader,

Every day our belief is enhanced that socialism is one of the values of the jamahiri society and an option from which we will never retreat and that Arab unity is a matter of life or death with it we can repulse backwardness, and from it the energies of the nation are ignited so as to build up the Arab independent capability to liberate Palestine, defeat imperialism and Zionism. Only with unity, the Arab nation [words indistinct] over the factors of weakness so as its nationals will take up their appropriate place on Earth and under the sun and for the Arabs to restore their right position in the process of history and events in the world. Forward and revolutionary struggle shall continue.
[Signed] The General People's Congress

Al-Qadhdhafi Praises Al-Asad's Anniversay Speech

LD1003092990 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0720 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] Brother leader of the revolution made a statement to JANA in which he emphasized the speech delivered by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, on the occasion of the 27th anniversary of 8 March, is considered among the most important speeches made in the Arab arena. It is characterized by seriousness and frankness, and that sounds an alarm bell. At the same time, it sets up the guidelines for unity, confrontation, and salvation.

The brother leader of the revolution added that on this occasion it is in the interests of the Arab nation to adopt every single word mentioned in this speech.

Spokesman Denies Chemical Weapons Production

AU1003151190 Rome ANSA in English 0847 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] (ANSA) Rome—A spokesman for the Libyan Embassy in Rome denied on Friday allegations that his country has resumed the production of chemical weapons at a plant in Rabta.

Asked about the charge levelled against the chemical plant, the spokesman cited Tripoli Foreign Ministry sources and said he was "amazed by what had been said and reported in some newspapers in the United States and then picked up by the Western media as regards the presumed Libyan production of chemical arms.

"We respond with a categoric denial, we are amazed at the statements made by the U.S. Administration in this area and we urge them to open a frank, balanced, and open dialogue, without creating positions on false news," said the spokesman.

The Embassy official added: "this is an excellent and positive time in relations among Arab states, especially among the Maghreb countries."

U.S. Al-Rabitah Allegations Echoed by Others

FRG's Greens Call For Inspection

AU1103185090 Paris AFP in English 1806 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] Bonn, March 11 (AFP)—West Germany's opposition Greens Party has asked the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to send a United Nations delegation to inspect a factory in Libya accused of producing chemical weapons.

Greens MP's Angelika Beer and Christa Vennegert said Sunday that pressure should be put on Tripoli to allow an inspection of the factory at al-Rabitah alleged by the United States to be involved in the manufacturing of chemical weapons.

Libya has denied that the plant is producing chemical weapons but has refused to allow independent observers to visit the plant.

Italian Defense Ministry Cited

PM1203110890 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 9 Mar 90 p 11

[Vincenzo Nigro report: "Chemical Weapons at Al-Rabitah—in Rome Foreign Ministry Confirms: 'Al-Qadhdhafi Has Started Producing Gas'"]

[Excerpts] Rome—Another clash is in the offing between the United States and Libya over al-Rabitah, the factory that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi had built a few kilometers from Tripoli for the production of chemical weapons. [passage omitted]

The American disclosures have been joined by others from the German Government, but also now by a confirmation from an Italian Defense Ministry source consulted by LA REPUBBLICA. "We have received information about production starting at the Libyan plant," people at the Defense Ministry say, "and for several weeks now Western governments have been preparing to seek a solution to the situation, to somehow persuade Colonel al-Qadhdhafi to cease the manufacture of aggressive chemicals that can only be used for military purposes."

Our source's reference to "joint activity" on the part of Western governments indirectly confirms another report from the United States—that the al-Rabitah issue was discussed by EEC foreign ministers at a meeting 20 February. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Army Repulses 'Major Offensive' at Yei 9 Mar

EA1003131090 Khartoum SUNA in English 0938 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] Khartoum, 10 March (SUNA)—The Armed Forces yesterday repulsed a major offensive launched by the rebels in a bid to take control over Yei town, West Equatoria Region, Armed Forces' Chief of Staff General Ishaq Ahmad 'Umar announced.

The rebel forces, consisted of two divisions equipped with a tank, artilleries and a vehicle-loaded machinegun, tried to enter the town yesterday in a major attack but they were crushed by the Armed Forces stationed in the town, said Gen. 'Umar.

The Armed Forces had inflicted heavy losses on the attacking forces, including the complete destruction of the tank after killing two of its crewmen and arresting the driver, added Gen. 'Umar.

It was the third attempt by the rebels to be crushed by the Armed Forces since last Thursday, said Gen. 'Umar.

Meanwhile, the Armed Forces General Command, in a statement issued today, cited the rebels' losses during their attack on Yei town as 40 killed, great numbers injured, complete destruction of a T-55 tank, a vehicle-loaded artillery and armoured vehicle. The statement added that large quantities of equipment and amunition were captured as well as seven Kalashnikov rifles and a rocket-propelled grenade.

The armed forces had suffered one martyr and six injured as they chased the remnants of the rebels with high morale, the statement said.

On the other hand, Armed Forces chief of staff described the rebels' recent activities as the futile flutter of a slayed man and that after (?panic) and disarray overwhelmed their (?despaired) troops.

He indicated that the Armed Forces had previously captured two rebel tanks and yesterday destroyed the third one. Only two tanks have been left for the rebels, which are now out of the battlefields for lack of fuel which the Armed Forces had captured.

Further on Proposed Integration With Libya

Radio SPLA Comments

EA0703144790 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Station commentary: "Does the Junta Know That It Should Put Its Houses in Order First?"]

[Text] Unity is strength, the saying goes. This saying came up as reality of human nature, because to unite means to become a complete whole that defends its country, produces much more, and does so many things in (?unison); that in all means success and progress to a country or people.

Recently, the self-promoted General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the junta's leader, traveled to Libya, heading a delegation in attempt to seek external unity. The delegation included Siddiq Hasan al-Turabi, a Muslim fundamentalist, son of Hasan 'Abdallah al-Turabi, the fundamentalist mastermind [leader of the National Islamic Front].

As they expected, the junta's leader reached an agreement with Libya, stating the unity of Libya with Sudan in cultural, economic, and security spheres. Nobody can describe the joy and jubilation of Al-Bashir for doing such achievement which will definitely solve his problems.

The questions that arise now are: Is this agreement and this unity done in the interest of the Sudanese people? Secondly, are they really aware of the true nature of the unity and its consequences?

From the time this group seized power, it has been depriving the Sudanese masses of their rights and freedom. No blessing has come from them but torture, detention, imprisonment, killing, and hunger. The junta failed to improve the economy of the Sudan as they promised but went on draining the national treasure. It became difficult and impossible to get a loaf to be chewed, leave alone a complete meal. The Sudanese masses in their local homes and even in towns suffered from insecurity. The government should feel ashamed to claim the protection of the innocent citizens at Lagawa and al-Jabalayn and other places. Those people were not secured, therefore they were massacred in cold blood.

Furthermore, the war has been raging in the Sudan for a long period of time now. What could the government of 'Umar al-Bashir claim that it has done to stop the war, or at least to minimize it? This government has been adding more fuel to the war by throwing all the previous peace agreements into the waste bin. It has pledged to fight to the last soldier.

In all, this government has declared itself the enemy of the Sudanese people and their aspirations, and the alternative is to seek an external unity outside the Sudan, which will help them in fighting the Sudanese people. The fundamentalists felt isolated [word indistinct] the masses because they failed to render them any services, to provide them with their needs and to satisfy their interest.

To ask ourselves as to what would be the consequences of unity, we have to expect evil coming out of that. We, the Sudanese people, are aware of the Junta's program from its very beginning, which is, in fact, an extension of the Islamic fundamentalist's program. While analyzing the situation, the inclusion of Siddiq Hasan 'Abdallah al-Turabi in the delegation can prove the hidden fact. There is no way that 'Umar al-Bashir can continue denying his connection with the Islamic fundamentalists, since reality reveals itself alone.

The junta is determined to fight the Sudanese people. Its aim is to unite with other countries, against the masses that help the coup-makers to obtain military assistance to intensidy the war in the Sudan, especially after they vowed that they will crush the SPLM-SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army]. Moreover, the junta intends to get rid of all the national democratic forces fignting for democracy and peace in the country. It is seeking to obtain external and strong security to guard and protect itself, meanwhile suppressing whoever is considered to be an opponent. The same cycle of pursuit, torture and ill-treatment of the citizens and nationalists will repeat itself.

The Sudanese people expected the junta to initiate a unity within the Sudanese themselves. The unity would have brought all the Sudanese forces with political ethnic and religious differences together. In turn, we would have built a solid body to protect and defend our territorial integrity. But since the junta is seeking external allies against us, what is our stand to face that challenge?

Libyan Envoy Comments

EA0803192890 Khartoum SUNA in French 0950 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Mar (SUNA)—Mr. Ramadan 'Ali Bashir, secretary of the Libyan Brotherhood Bureau in Khartoum, has announced that the integration charter between Libya and the Sudan will be implemented very soon.

In a statement issued to the daily AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH on Thursday, the Libyan diplomat also confirmed that the signing of the Sudan-Libya integration charter constituted a step towards an Arab union (?which) will give an impetus to relations with African countries.

The Libyan official also stressed that unity was the best way to face the dangers threatening the Arab nation, in reference to the war taking place on the waters of the Arab world [as received].

Information Minister on Sentence for British 'Spy'

JN1203114890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Mar (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim has made a statement to INA in response to the tendentious propagandist falsehoods made by the British and Zionist media organs over the sentences handed down to Zionist spy Farzad Bazoft and British nurse Daphne Anne Parish. The following is the text of the statement:

We would like to clarify the following facts before public opinion: The mentioned journalist obtained facilities on six occasions from the Ministry of Culture and Information during the period from early 1988 until 16 September 1989, the date when he was arrested after coming to Iraq to cover the elections for the legislative council of the Kurdistan autonomous region in northern Iraq. We would like to point out that the Ministry of Culture and Information has no record of any journalist or media representative having been arrested or having had his movements restricted over the past years, including the difficult period of the war, which imposed known restrictions on journalists and correspondents. These journalists and correspondents, including the aforementioned journalist, used to travel to the fronts without any supervision. However, that journalist exploited these facilities, under cover of the elections for the legislative council of the autonomous region in northern Iraq, to carry out espionage against Iraq, particularly against its vital installations in an area 300 km away from the area he came to cover.

Bazoft admitted his crime on television and referred to the facilities that were given to him by the nurse who worked at the Ibn-al-Bitar Hospital in Baghdad. The British consul in Baghdad used to meet periodically with the two in the presence of their lawyers.

The case was tried fairly, and the two were convicted and sentenced in the presence of the British consul and in accordance with Iraqi laws.

From all this, it becomes evident that the two spies were not subjected to any coercion and that no party whatsoever in Iraq harbored any animosity toward them as evidenced by the fact that the competent departments in Iraq provided them and others with all the required facilities. The competent parties in the British Embassy in Baghdad know without any doubt, through their meetings with the two, that they were not subjected to any pressure, or torture as some British and Zionist quarters claim in order to incriminate Iraq.

The evidence and incriminating documents in our possession, the statements broadcast on television, the specimens that were collected from the site by the convicted man, the initial investigations that were conducted in light of the incriminating documents and the confessions of the two convicted persons, which were written by them in English, refute the slander against Iraq, which contradicts logic and law.

In light of all this—and while affirming that we welcome all Arab and foreign journalists to visit Iraq and will provide them with all facilities to accomplish their media tasks quickly—we affirm that no party in the world can pass off on us any spy who wants to exploit the media and journalist cover to violate our national and pan-Arab security. We also affirm that the fabricated clamor against us constitutes blatant interference in our internal affairs, because what we have practiced was in total harmony with the fundamentals of Iraqi law that provides for handing down the death sentence on any spy. This fact is known by the British and Zionists before others. They should not have pushed their citizens into a trap because the Iraqis' eyes are open and their national and pan-Arab security is above everything.

Also, humanitarian reasons prompted the Iraqi authorities to agree to the meeting between the convicted nurse and her daughter before the trial. British circles should have placed these facts before the media organs and public opinion in Britain before flooding them with falsehoods and lies that could only cause harm yet yield no benefit.

Saddam Grants Two-Month General Amnesty to Kurds

JN1003191490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1840 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Mar (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has ordered a general amnesty for all Kurdish Iraqis residing outside Iraq as of tomorrow, 11 March, and lasting until 11 May.

This emerged from a speech given by President Saddam when he met members of the Executive and Legislative Councils of the Autonomous Region of Kurdistan. The meeting was also attended by the secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, Irbil Branch, and the Irbil governor.

His excellency the president also ordered that this amnesty will also include [Patriotic Union of Kurdistan leader] Jalal Talbani.

This noble gesture by his excellency the president came on the 20th anniversary of the issuance of the 11 March declaration and on the 16th anniversary of the passing of the bill on autonomous rule for Iraqi Kurds.

We will inform you later of the details of the speech delivered by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn when he met with the members of the Legislative and Executive Councils of the Autonomous Region of Kurdistan.

Says Time To 'Heal Wounds'

JN1003201090

[Editorial Report] Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic at 1906 GMT on 10 March carries a recording of a speech by President Saddam Husayn to a meeting of executive and legislative councils of the autonomous region of Kurdistan in Irbil Governorate.

In his speech, Saddam Husayn reviews past events in the region, then states that "our sons in Kurdistan feel comfortable now, because peace now prevails." He says it is his "top priority" to "heal the wounds of our people in Kurdistan."

After reviewing the pleasant times he has spent with the people of Kurdistan, Saddam talks about the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan leader, Jalal Talbani. He describes Talbani as being "flighty" and asks: "How can you deal with a person who is not sincere?" He then declares that "for the sake of this occasion, Jalal Talbani is allowed to return to Iraq." He adds: "I have no hope that he will change, but God can change everything."

Saddam then goes on to declare that he wants to serve Iraq because "to serve your people is sacred." He announces amnesty for all Kurds, noting that "all are included in this amnesty. This is effective as of tomorrow, 11 March, until 11 May."

Ramadan Receives Tunisian Message on Coordination

JN0803133090 Baghdad INA in English 1240 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, Mar 8, INA—Iraqi Revolution Command Council member and First Deputy Premier Taha Yasin Ramadan received today a message addressed to President Saddam Husayn by Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Tunisian Ambassador in Baghdad al-Arabi Hantous handed over the letter to Mr Ramadan during a meeting here.

INA learned that the message concerns coordination between the Arab Cooperation Council and Arab Maghreb Union and the relations between Iraq and Tunisia.

The meeting reviewed the agenda topics of the Iraqi-Tunisian supreme committee due to convene in Tunis soon at a premier level.

Austrian Offical Meets With Ba'th Party Official

JN1103130590 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] Comrade Latif Nusayyif Jasim, member of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and official in charge of the party's external relations, today received Erhard Busek, deputy chairman of the ruling Austrian People's Party, and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting, they discussed world developments and ways to enhance the ties of friendship and cooperation between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the ruling Austrian People's Party in the interest of the two countries' peoples.

Terms Visit 'Very Successful'

JN1103191390 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] Erhard Busek, minister of science and research and deputy chairman of the ruling Austrian People's Party, has left Baghdad, winding up a two-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, he said his visit was very successful and pointed out that several meetings were held with Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and Iraqi Government officials. He said the meetings were aimed at strengthening bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two friendly countries in the various fields and activities. Viewpoints on issues of common concern were exchanged, he stated, adding that relations between the two friendly countries will witness great progress in the interest of the two peoples and in a way that will enhance peace and stability in the region and the entire world.

Indian Premier's Envoy Leaves Baghdad 9 Mar

JN0903134390 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Mrs. Najmah Hibatallah, vice chairman of the Indian House of Senates and special envoy to President Saddam Husayn from Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh, left Baghdad today. She was seen off at the airport by a number of officials and the Indian charge d'affaires in Baghdad. [passage omitted]

Rabin Suggests Knesset Decide on E. Jerusalem

TA1103070290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has suggested that if the issue of voting by East Jerusalem residents in the elections in the territories is raised during the Cairo talks, a Knesset plenum should be the body to decide the issue. This proposal was formulated to smooth over the differences between the Likud and the Alignment before today's Inner Cabinet session.

Rabin said he had not looked into the Likud's reaction to his proposal, but someone else had. The Likud's response, however, still is not known. He added there is no argument between the Likud and the Alignment regarding the indivisibility of Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty. It also is agreed, Rabin said, that the autonomous authority designated to be established following the elections would not have any jurisdiction over Jerusalem, while the principle barring negotiations with the PLO is anchored in the government's basic guidelines and in the peace initiative.

Rabin claimed a positive response to the Baker proposal therefore is possible, while other issues can be left for Inner Cabinet resolution. Minister Rabin demanded an affirmative response be given the U.S. questions, stressing even a postponement of the Inner Cabinet decision would bury the peace initiative.

Minister Moshe Qatzav said the Likud ministers would discuss Rabin's proposal this morning, but pointed out his party finds it difficult to compromise on issues of such importance, above all on Jerusalem's status. He said the status of Jerusalem should not be placed in doubt, especially when worldwide attempts are being made to undermine it. He stressed it is inconceivable for Israel to issue a positive response to the Baker questions before a united Likud-Alignment stand regarding the other pending issues is consolidated.

'Widening Chasm' Seen in Inner Cabinet Debate

TA1103103090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Excerpts] The Inner Cabinet still is discussing the Israeli response to U.S. Secretary of State Baker's questions on the composition of the Palestinian delegation amid proliferating reports of a widening chasm between the Likud and the Alignment. Ministers Qatzav, Navon, Nisim, and Arens so far have spoken; judging from their statements, each party is sticking to its positions.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that in a preliminary meeting of the Labor ministers, it was decided to demand an Inner Cabinet vote today and to give Baker an affirmative response before discussing any compromise proposal. This position also was acceptable to Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

The Likud ministers also convened before the Inner Cabinet session and to all intents and purposes agreed to conclude the Inner Cabinet debate and categorically reject the Alignment's ultimatum to reach a decision today. Following the meeting of the Likud ministers, Minister Magen said the Likud had not discussed the compromise proposals suggested by Defense Minister Rabin this morning. [passage omitted]

The National Religious Party [NRP] Knesset faction declared Rabin's proposal conceals a hidden landmine. The NRP feels the Knesset should decide on the vote of East Jerusalem residents before the Cairo talks get under way. Tehiya announced if the Likud ministers accept the Baker proposal, it would constitute a giant step toward the establishment of a Palestinian state. Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that according to Tehiya, it has now transpired the coalition crisis was an artificial creation designed to cover up the capitulation to Baker under a veil of ostentatiously hawkish statements.

Our correspondent Shlomo Raz points out contacts between the Likud and the Alignment and the religious parties were stepped up this morning.

Shamir Refuses Inner Cabinet Vote on Baker Plan

TA1103114190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1053 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Report by Arye Golan outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem "upon the conclusion of the Inner Cabinet Session"—live]

[Text] [Golan] The government faces a breakup. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir refused to conduct a vote on the Alignment ministers' proposal to give a positive response to Baker, and only afterward to coordinate positions. We would like to talk to Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres. Mr. Peres, is this the end of the national unity government?
[Peres] This is the end of the agreement that constituted the only basis of maintaining the national unity government.

[Golan] Well, Mr. Shamir refused to conduct a vote. Are Labor Party ministers and party institutions about to adopt a decision to resign immediately from the government?
[Peres] [words indistinct] I will formulate the questions and the answers. We declared we will regard a nonvote as a decision, and I consider it a negative decision.

[Golan] What is the Labor Party going to do?
[Peres] We will convene our institutions and adopt a decision.

[Golan] What kind of decision?
[Peres] I will announce the decision then.

[Golan] Mr. Peres refused to answer additional questions. He appears quite angry. According to all the signs, this indeed heralds the breakup of the government. At the Inner Cabinet session, each side adhered to its

position. The Alignment ministers demanded a vote be taken today on their proposal to deliver a positive response to U.S. Secretary of State Baker, both on the question and on the attendant understanding, and afterward if necessary to discuss the coordination of positions with the Likud preparatory to sending the Israeli delegation to the Cairo dialogue. The Likud ministers, one after the other, expressed their positions and declared they would refuse to give Baker an affirmative response before reaching agreement between the Likud and the Alignment.

The Alignment ministers have just left the meeting. What they have to say is that, just as was decided earlier, a nonvote or nondecision also constitutes a decision—therefore the Labor Party now must decide on its future steps. It is important to point out we have not heard any clear, unequivocal statement from Minister Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and chairman of the Labor Party, that this is it and the Labor Party is dissolving the government.

[Unidentified correspondent] Did the Inner Cabinet also discuss Rabin's compromise proposals of yesterday and today?

[Golan] To the best of our knowledge, there was no discussion of this, but things are extremely complicated right now because the ministers have just walked out.

Likud's Qatzav Discusses Inner Cabinet Decision

TA1103114590 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1054 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman from the Prime Minister's Office—live]

[Text] There has just been an explosion of the Inner Cabinet meeting. The prime minister did not put the issue on the agenda to a vote. The Alignment ministers had demanded a vote be conducted, and the result was an explosion. The Alignment ministers angrily walked out. Let us hear Likud Minister Moshe Qatzav:

[Begin recording] [Qatzav] No party could attain change or a breakthrough on its own.

[Arabic television correspondent Shlomo Ganor] Does this mean the end of the national unity government?

[Qatzav] We are not interested in that. We will not cause this. It is possible the Labor Party has so decided. We will try to avoid it.

[Gutman] Minister Qatzav, why did the Likud refuse to put the Alignment proposal up for a vote?

[Qatzav] Because the issue has not yet been thoroughly discussed. Let us not forget that only this morning the defense minister raised a new proposal. It is possible there are additional new formulas that should be discussed. There was no substantive debate of Baker's address to us. In the two sessions the Inner Cabinet conducted, we only discussed the two conditions raised by the Likud. Baker's questions were not discussed. [end recording]

Ya'aqobi: Coalition Could End 'Next Few Days'

TA1103121790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1057 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Interview with Communications Minister Gad Ya'aqobi by Arye Golan at the Prime Minister's Office after the Inner Cabinet session—live]

[Text] [Golan] Minister Gad Ya'aqobi, Defense Minister Rabin proposed the issue of participation of the East Jerusalem Arabs in the elections be raised for discussion and resolution at the Knesset. Was it raised at the Cabinet session?
[Ya'aqobi] The defense minister mentioned it. Unfortunately, he received negative responses from several Likud ministers. In view of the fact the responses to the U.S. secretary of state's proposals all called for a postponement, or conditioning them on issues whose discussion already has ended, we only can gather the Likud decided it cannot advance the peace process and decided to abort it. The Likud eventually became part of the constraints camp.

[Golan] Were additional compromise proposals perhaps raised by the Likud?
[Ya'aqobi] There were no proposals. The Likud raised only one proposal: To continue the discussions and clarify the issues. The prime minister even added we must return to the three issues that are not part of the current stage of the peace process, such as the call on additional Arab countries to enter peace negotiations with Israel, the issue of the refugee camps. Issues that are irrelevant...

[Golan, interrupting] This is the Israeli peace initiative. It has several clauses.
[Ya'aqobi] Yes. Those mentioned cannot be realized at all unless we have a partner for them. My impression is, therefore, that the Likud decided in fact it is unable to go on with the process, and has in fact aborted and killed the chance of continuing the peace process under current conditions.

[Golan] Did it kill the national unity government?
[Ya'aqobi] In my view, it definitely has created a situation in which the national unity government might end its term in the next few days.

[Golan] What is the Alignment ministers' next step?
[Ya'aqobi] We will conduct consultations this afternoon. Tomorrow the party bureau and Central Committee will convene and reach resolutions.

[Golan] Do you intend to resign or submit a collective letter of resignation to the prime minister?
[Ya'aqobi] I so far have not heard of such an idea.

[Golan] What are the ideas you have heard?

[Ya'aqobi] I have heard ideas that we have been raising for quite some time, saying the nonacceptance of a positive reply at this stage in fact means this government has exhausted its reason for being.

[Golan] A vote on no-confidence motions submitted by the Citizens Rights Movement and the United Workers Party is expected to be conducted at the Knesset on Tuesday [13 March; Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 11 March reports on page 3 that "Knesset Speaker Dov Shilansky has decided the motions of no-confidence in the government submitted Wednesday will be discussed next Thursday," 15 March]. Can you see the Alignment ministers and Knesset members voting in favor of these motions?
[Ya'aqobi] We have not yet discussed this issue, and have not yet reached a decision.

[Golan] What is your opinion?
[Ya'aqobi] I will make my opinion known in the appropriate and authorized forums.

[Golan] Thank you, Minister Ya'aqobi.

Netanyahu Comments on Inner Cabinet Meeting

TA1103141190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1110 GMT 11 Mar 90

[News conference with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem "upon the conclusion of the Inner Cabinet session" on 11 March—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Netanyahu] ...regarding the implementation of the political initiative are coming from many sides, including the Arab side. But what seems vital to me is the following: If the Alignment and Minister Rabin—as I heard him say—insist there are issues that require an outside decision, the place to do that is not the Knesset. The fate of Jerusalem and Eretz Yisra'el and the fate of this country should be decided by the people. If that is what they want, that is fine, we will approach the people. We should not play parliamentary or coalition games.

[Israel Television's Yig'al Goren] On the face of it, there would seem to be nothing simpler than making a positive decision on Baker's initiative and jointly settling all the problems pending before the Cairo talks later, in a series of debates by the Inner Cabinet.

[Netanyahu] I do not accept the possibility of entering negotiations before we have ourselves decided on the most basic issues we are going to negotiate. I think the Likud's proposal was fair. I do not understand why the Alignment cannot respond to it, but if it wants to put it to an outside decision, the place that decision should be made is not in the Knesset, but in elections by the people.

[Goren] Do you accept what Minister Rabin told me last night, that he actually accuses Minister Nisim and a bunch of ministers, including yourself, of constraining—as he put it—the prime minister, who had been about to give a positive response?

[Netanyahu] If the Alignment or anyone else sees the question of Jerusalem and the PLO as constraints, that comes as a surprise to me. It seems to me these are very basic issues that touch upon our very existence. It therefore seems to me the question should be: Why does the Alignment find it hard to respond to it?

[Goren] There is no doubt the closest of relationships existed between the prime minister and Minister Rabin. The latter argues that all the points had been settled, until a bunch of ministers showed up and actually scared the prime minister.

[Netanyahu] I do not think the prime minister is scared by anything. He was the one who insisted on the most important points. Based on the things he believes in, he knows very well the interests he should protect, and he knows he is carrying on his shoulders a vast responsibility for the future of the country. I do not think this prime minister is impressed by scare tactics. He is more concerned with the country and its future.

[Goren] [words indistinct] ...the prime minister and the Likud in this coalition?

[Netanyahu] I do not know, that certainly has to be checked. Incidentally, I do not think the existence or nonexistence of the government is the most cardinal question. The cardinal question is what sort of policy this government upholds and where it is headed. If the Alignment wants to backtrack on the question of Jerusalem and on the uncompromising position concerning the PLO, let them say so. But let them say as much to the voter, let them confront the voters and tell them: We are going to elections on a different platform.

[Voice of Israel's Shlomo Raz] Mr. Netanyahu, when are we going to have elctions?

[Netanyahu] I do not know whether we are headed for elections. I do not propose we call an election. But if the Alignment cannot agree with us on the most basic positions, such as the question of Jerusalem and the PLO, it seems to me the thing to do is to approach the people and tell them: You, the people, you decide.

[Unidentified correspondent] [words indistinct] ...the peace process?

[Netanyahu] Certainly not. The peace process only can be advanced if there is a government with a clear-cut policy. I think the obstacles on the way to peace definitely are on the Arab side, but it is inconceivable we should advance the peace process and peace negotiations with a divided government.

[Raz] I would like to go back to the question of elections. Likud members argue they have enough people to set up

a narrow-based government, but you talk about elections. Which of these two options is the Likud going to embrace?

[Netanyahu] My personal opinion is that in the face of the vast difference today, the most appropriate thing to do is to put this to a decision by the people, and not by any other parliamentary constellation.

[Raz] That is to say we very shortly will be going to the polling booths?

[Netanyahu] I cannot tell you this is what will happen. I am only saying this is my personal predilection.

[Raz] In fact, the fate of this government has been sealed.

[Netanyahu] That depends on whether the Alignment changes its position within the next few days.

Alignment Ministers To Meet; Scenarios Outlined

TA1103122890 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1120 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Report by political correspondent Dov Gilhar from the Prime Minister's Office—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Alignment ministers will convene at the finance minister's office at 1430 [1230 GMT] today. They probably will discuss what to recommend the Labor Party Bureau propose to the party Central Committee, which convenes tomorrow. The Alignment, so everyone says, is heading for an explosion. We did not hear Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's comments. Following the Inner Cabinet meeting, he entered his car and drove away.

As far as we know, the Likud ministers have not yet set a meeting. Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu arrived for talks here at the Prime Minister's Office. Some ministers close to the prime minister also are around. A time for the Likud ministers meeting probably will be set in the coming hours.

[Later in the extended IDF newscast, party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel reports "the Labor Party Bureau will convene at 1500 (1300 GMT) tomorrow. At 1700 (1500 GMT), the Labor Party Central Committee will convene. This latter body is slated to discuss the disbandment of the government due to the termination of cooperation with the Likud." Deqel adds that "the technical question as to how the government can be dissolved is slated to come up in the Knesset this week. A Citizens Rights Movement motion of no-confidence was submitted, and the question is whether the Alignment will join this motion, which is expected to be heard on Thursday, or whether the prime minister will not take earlier action and dismiss all Alignment ministers or Vice Prime Minister Peres from the government either today or tomorrow, after the Labor Party Central Committee makes a formal decision. While the Likud stated the prime minister has no cause to disband the government, the Alignment ministers disagree. While this as such may not be a cause to dismiss them, the prime minister, following a formal decision by the Labor Party Central Committee on disbanding the national unity government, will have cause to dismiss all 11 Alignment ministers from the government, thus forestalling the no-confidence motion."]

Likud Ministers Meet

TA1103130090 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1153 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Report by Yaron Kulas from outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem and 'Adi Talmor from the studio "after the Likud ministers meeting following the Inner Cabinet session"—live]

[Text] [Kulas] The consultation was attended not only by ministers associated with Prime Minister Shamir; Deputy Prime Minister David Levi also was there.

At the conclusion of the consultation, the Likud ministers decided not to decide for right now. They are awaiting the decisions to be made by the Labor Party Central Committee and perhaps even sooner by the Labor Party ministers, who will meet in about 30 minutes. The Likud's policy is not to make any unnecessary statements and to wait and see what the Labor Party does.

Minister Qatzav told us, in answer to our question, that the possibility of sending letters of dismissal to the Labor ministers had not been discussed, while Minister Netanyahu said his preference was if the situation and the peace process indeed cannot be furthered, there is no point in the government's continued existence. This, however, is Netanyahu's personal preference, and not the stand of the Likud ministers and the prime minister.

The Likud ministers are now leaving the Prime Minister's Office. Foreign Minister Arens refused to comment either on internal matters, such as the government's dissolution, or on external issues, such as the peace process with which he is entrusted. We will keep you updated on further developments.

[Talmor] Could you describe the general mood outside. Is the feeling one of severe crisis? Can you sense any optimism? What does it look like?

[Kulas] The people that left the meeting, whether they were Likud ministers, or the Labor ministers beforehand, were not surprised. They had anticipated this, and some even came out with smiling faces. They were not taken unaware; they knew where things were heading. The contacts that now will be conducted will be the Labor Party's attempts to set up a narrow-based government, while the Likud will push for new elections. The reactions were to be expected, and the answers to our questions were predictable. The scenario was clear, and the play went exactly according to the prewritten script.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1207 GMT on 11 March returns to correspondent Yaron Kulas outside the

Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem, adding "the Likud ministers adopted a tactical decision not to say anything and to wait for the decisions to be adopted by the Labor Party institutions. I suggest we hear it straight from the horse's mouth. Here are remarks made by Minister Qatzav scant moments ago. Minister Qatzav said: The Alignment should accept the Likud decision. I think it should accept the Likud's call to continue contacts and search for a formula to further the political initiative, according to the principles designated by the Israeli Government. We hope, of course, that the Labor ministers do not decide to disband the government because, after all, this action certainly would not achieve the goal they consider important—the continuation of the political initiative.

["Minister Qatzav later said the question of sending letters of dismissal to Labor ministers was not discussed in the meeting. The Likud ministers still are waiting, and this appears to be only the first in a long series of consultations that will take place in the coming hours. All the ministers have left, including Levi, while Shamir is still in his office."]

'Complete' Report on Inner Cabinet Meeting

TA1103140090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1250 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Report by Arye Golan outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem—live]

[Excerpt] Good day to you. Well, it now is possible to give a complete and detailed report on the progression of the Inner Cabinet session, which ended with Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' repeated demand a vote be conducted on the Labor Party ministers' proposal.

Prime Minister Shamir repeatedly refused to conduct a vote, and finally Peres said this means the Labor Party will view the absence of a vote too as a decision. The prime minister then said the debate was over, and all Inner Cabinet members, both from the Alignment and Likud, rose and left the meeting hall.

The above was the conclusion of the meeting, but let us return to the beginning, without keeping a chronological order, however. Let me start with the prime minister's remarks. Shamir began by saying today's session is one of the most important discussions ever conducted by the Inner Cabinet. Referring to an important and decisive move, the Cairo meeting, and according to the prime minister, it is impossible to conclude all subjects by saying yes or no in response to Secretary of State Baker's questions. Mr. Shamir continued as follows: Regrettably, the involvement and intervention of the U.S. Administration has very greatly changed Israel's peace initiative.

According to the prime minister, the Americans' intervention gave the entire initiative a different nature and color, a nature and color Israel had not initially intended, or wanted. Shamir here referred mainly to the United States' constant and persistent courting of the PLO. Shamir added: All our arguments that the PLO does not maintain the terms to which it had committed itself are to no avail. The Americans say we should get off their back with our facts, since they already have made a decision without consulting us, and without taking our views into consideration, although the initiative is ours.

These were the prime minister's comments. To sum them up: He was critical of the fact the United States diverted the process from the path originally intended by the Israeli Government. Later, we heard Mr. Shamir addressed himself also to jurists' opinions regarding the participation of East Jerusalem Arabs. The jurists had determined this matter does not determine sovereignty, but according to Shamir, this matter is not a theoretical legal matter. The East Jerusalem Arabs' participation in the elections testifies to their share in ownership of East Jerusalem. The matter is political rather than theoretical and legalistic.

In this context, Shamir again mentioned the Americans' recent declarations on the East Jerusalem issue. Mr. Shamir said: The Inner Cabinet discussion of this issue should focus on the Baker question, which sounds trivial and almost technical. This is, however, a distortion of the picture. Baker's question does not apply to the entire issue, far from it. The answer of yes or no we are required to give does not exhaust the matter. Talk here is of an important and decisive move, the prime minister repeated.

The prime minister continued: The entire matter of the U.S.-PLO dialogue was not at our advice; it rather clearly ran counter to our opinion. This dialogue has turned into almost the centerpiece of the entire planned Israeli dialogue with the Palestinian residents from Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. This move, in the prime minister's opinion, constitutes an artificial and unjust change in the initiative. The peace initiative does not contain anything about a momentous and dramatic meeting, which will turn into a worldwide media event. This should be a meeting of election experts in order to conclude election procedures and rules, and there is no room for opening speeches and all the hullabaloo and commotion around this issue.

Such a meeting can be conducted without advertising it. Still, according to Shamir, we take our friends the Americans into consideration, and they led us into a situation which will result in an extraordinarily large-scale meeting that will discuss everything. The Americans emphasized the political aspects of the elections, and Baker even announced that he himself wants to come to the meeting between the Israeli and Palestinian delegations in Cairo. The prime minister added: Baker travels around the world and usually does not have time for us.

Still, Mr. Shamir disclosed, in his meeting with Minister Arens a few weeks ago, Baker told Arens he intends to arrive in Cairo and that Arens also should come, so both

foreign ministers would be present there, thus giving the Cairo meeting more weight than Mr. Shamir intends it to have. The prime minister added: It is inconceivable we will not conclude the matter of guarantees. He charged that, after the Alignment states the assurances are not important, U.S. Secretary of State Baker and his aides then can easily come and say they do not want to handle the assurances issue any longer.

Let me state, Shamir said, that the Inner Cabinet never discussed the Baker questions. There was no discussion about the understanding, so why should we agree to deportees, and why should there be a person or two who is affiliated with East Jerusalem? Therefore, Shamir concluded, our debates have not reached a point that makes possible a conclusion and decisions, neither regarding the principles governing the East Jerusalem Arabs' role, nor a reaction to possible PLO tricks when the Cairo negotiations begin, nor Secretary of State Baker's concrete question.

We should conduct a thorough discussion, and, for all I know, perhaps get back to the United States still, Shamir said. The Americans had patience with the PLO, so why should we spare their time and go for unclear issues now? Therefore, the prime minister added, I do not think the time has come at all to put any decision to a vote. The discussion is not over. We should continue the peace process, but give it a different direction: to restore it to the original direction dating back to 14 May 1989.

This was the prime minister. Ministers who participated in the meeting noted that during his entire, lengthy statement Mr. Shamir did not propose, even once, to say no to Secretary of State Baker's questions.

Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres took the floor at this point, and said: I move to put the Labor Party ministers' proposal to a vote. The Alignment resents you, Peres said, because we hold you responsible for the loss of the Jordanian option. This will not happen again, he said. The proposal regarding the deportees has existed for several months, and the logic behind it is known. These deportees came to replace Palestinians outside the territories, which was the previous formula accepted by the Americans, the Egyptians, and the PLO.

The proposal about dual domicile—that is Arabs in the territories who have an additional house or job in East Jerusalem—came to replace the formula of one address. Everything is clear, Peres says. According to Clause 9C of the coalition agreement, I move to put the matter to a vote now. Since Minister Moda'i is absent because he is overseas, Peres promised: Only five Alignment ministers will vote instead of six.

Prime Minister Shamir replied: It does not make sense to conduct a vote at this point. [passage omitted]

Peres: Alignment Sees Likud Position as 'End'

TA1103150390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1432 GMT 11 Mar 90

[News conference given by Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and finance minister, outside his office in Jerusalem, after the Alignment ministers meeting—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Peres] ....Inner Cabinet of this morning, which prevented us from attaining a resolution on the issues vital to the peace progress and cut the peace process itself. Therefore, we are recommending the Central Committee authorize the Labor faction in the Knesset to resort to any parliamentary steps which are required by this situation.

[Israel Television's Ya'aqov Ahime'ir] Mr. Peres, will the Alignment faction in the Knesset vote no-confidence in the government?
[Peres] The Alignment faction in the Knesset will weigh all the possibilities. It is obvious the present situation has reached an end.

[Ahime'ir] Mr. Peres, has the government reached its end, or has it not yet?
[Peres] In my opinion, the severance of the peace process is the severance of the government's existence.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Peres, do you also prefer elections?
[Ahime'ir] And also, do you hold a narrow-based government in your pocket, as the saying goes?
[Peres] My pockets will be empty of any plans, as long as this government survives.

[Unidentified correspondent] Are the Alignment ministers considering submitting a collective letter of resignation?
[Peres] Why should we resign? Because someone has made an error? We do not feel we have blundered, and this is not a Likud government, it is a bipartisan government. It is not we who made a mistake, and we believe another party has erred. Therefore, there is no need for us to resign.

[Ahime'ir] Have all venues for a dialogue between you and Mr. Shamir on the pertinent issue been exhausted, or is there still an option for an agreement?
[Peres] No. I think any possibility of an agreement has been rejected. As you know, this morning Mr. Rabin submitted a further proposal of compromise, let us say. This, too, was categorically rejected. I wish to state this: The Likud says we presented them with an ultimatum. In fact, it was the Likud that presented us with a political ultimatum: either endorse the Likud stance or there will be nothing at all. This is the first time in the peace process that the Likud has told the Labor Party: You either will embrace our stance, or we will give the Americans no reply. We see this as the end of the process. The rationale behind the government's existence is related to the rationale of the peace process.

[Ahime'ir] If Mr. Shamir requests another meeting of the Inner Cabinet—tonight, for instance, or tomorrow morning—will you grant such a request?
[Peres] No. We asked for a resolution. Having had our request rejected, we saw the non-resolution as a kind of a resolution. This is not something that can be prolonged indefinitely. We announced that not adopting a resolution is also a resolution. Incidentally, we did not leave the meeting angrily. I do not know who manufactures all these radio and press descriptions.

[Ahime'ir] Do you mean to say you still are on friendly terms?
[Peres] We are not enemies. There is a difference between being friends and enemies, there is an entire world between these two. No one became angry, no one got up and left with a slam. We asked that a vote be conducted, and when our request was not granted, the matter was concluded.

Rabin Comments After Alignment Ministers Meet

TA1103155990 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1447 GMT 11 Mar 90

[News conference with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin outside the Finance Ministry in Jerusalem at the end of the Alignment minister's meeting—live]

[Text] [Tel Aviv IDF Radio's Yaron Deqel] Mr. Defense Minister, we would like to ask you a few questions. The first question is: In view of what happened today in the Inner Cabinet, do you believe this government has run its course?

[Rabin] We will see in the next few days. In any event, what bothers me is that, on the substantial issues raised in the Inner Cabinet, including the question of Jerusalem, there is no doubt the Labor Party is no less loyal than the Likud to the unity, integrity, and Israeli sovereignty over united Jerusalem. There is no questioning our position that the self-governing authority or autonomy will not be applied on any Israeli sovereign area—certainly not on East Jerusalem. All that remains to be settled on the question of Jerusalem is the participation of the inhabitants of East Jerusalem as absentee voters [last two words in English], who would not even cast their ballots in Jerusalem. Incidentally, Likud ministers said in the Inner Cabinet session they would have no objection if Jordan were to allow them to take part in elections to the Jordanian Parliament.

I proposed a mechanism that would enable political activity to promote the peace process over elections, which would lead to a postponement of four to six months. Israel has a Knesset, which represents the variety of opinions held by Israelis. That is why the matter should be put to a vote by the Knesset plenum. The moment my proposal was rejected, it became clear to me the problem is not one of concern for the fate of Jerusalem or the PLO taking over the negotiations. For instance, we said if the Palestinian delegation to Cairo were to declare it is a delegation on behalf of the PLO, we would agree to call off the talks. We would not let anyone in Tunis announce this is a delegation on behalf of the PLO, because we then would be ceding the right to veto any political move at any time to the hands of some gangster in Tunis.

Something else became clear: According to what its ministers said in the Inner Cabinet session, the Likud is calling into question issues that had been agreed on with the United States—that the delegation to Cairo would include one or two deportees and one or two representatives of the inhabitants of the territories, excluding East Jerusalem, who either own an apartment or an office in East Jerusalem—thus precluding a positive response to Baker and the continuation of the political process.

[Deqel] If that is so, why wait a few more days?

[Rabin] What the Likud tried to do today is to have the Labor Party surrender unconditionally to the constraints imposed by the Likud Central Committee. In other words, as long as this remains the Likud's demand from the Labor Party—that it should forgo its positions, surrender, and accept not just the positions I thought were acceptable by some of the Likud ministers, but actually accept the Likud Central Committee's resolutions, or else they will not even consider a positive response to Baker—such a positive response is not assured. Our purpose is not to forgo our positions. I do not need any certificate from the Likud to prove my loyalty to Jerusalem. I fought more than many of them for the liberation and unity of Jerusalem. Neither do I need a certificate from them to prove my attitude toward the PLO.

What I witnessed today, therefore, was an attempt by the Likud to constrain the Labor Party with the Likud Central Committee's resolutions. That is totally out of the question.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Rabin, what now must be done? Should there be an attempt to set up a narrow-based government led by the Alignment, or should you go to elections?
[Deqel] Also, it is not clear to us whether this is the end of the government. The impression we gather from your remarks is that there still is a chance for a compromise.
[Rabin] If this is indeed the Likud's position—a demand to constrain the Labor Party with the constraints decided upon by the Likud Central Committee in July 1989—this government will be unable to fulfill its main objective, which is advancing the peace process.

[Deqel] Do you plan to raise another compromise proposal in addition to the proposal you made this morning, or is this your last word?
[Rabin] I have nothing else to offer.

[Unidentified correspondent] What about the future? Where is the Labor Party headed?
[Rabin] We will see.

[Deqel] Shim'on Peres is leading the move to disband the government. That is clear enough. The question is: Do you agree with this move?
[Rabin] You interview Shim'on Peres and address this question to him.

[Voice of Israel's Arye Golan] You say you will wait a few days to see what the Likud position is. Have you not ascertained the Likud's position already, sir?
[Rabin] The position voiced today, which I simply describe as a wish to constrain the Labor Party with the constraints imposed by the Likud Central Committee, does away with the joint basis for continuing the activities to promote the peace process.

[Deqel] As you see it, is there still a chance the Likud may change the position it voiced today?
[Rabin] That you will have to ask the Likud.

'Formal Resolution' of Labor Ministers Provided

TA1103170290 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1540 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Report by party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel after the Alignment Ministers meeting—recorded]

[Excerpt] This, then, is the formal resolution of the Labor Party Ministers, as endorsed here some 30 minutes ago: The Likud position, which prevented the adoption of a resolution on issues vital to the peace process, eliminated the chance to pursue the process. Therefore, the Labor Party Central Committee authorizes its faction in the Knesset to decide on any parliamentary steps ensuing from this situation. That is it; there are no further details. The Alignment ministers will request the Labor Party Central Committee to authorize its Knesset faction to decide on parliamentary steps, but they are not specifying what parliamentary steps will be made.

Those who strive to dissolve the government will regard the above as a tactical move, which will bar the prime minister from dismissing the Alignment ministers. As one of the Alignment meeting participants told us: We do not want to provide Shamir with any pretext to say we are disbanding the government, which may prompt him to fire us.

We have learned from the meeting that Shim'on Peres had added another clause, which said—and this is a quote: And, therefore, the unity government has reached its end. End of quote. Hayim Ramon, Alignment faction chairman, who wished not to be too obvious, asked this clause be struck off. The clause was then struck off, leaving a vague resolution. The clause does not exist in the Alignment ministers resolution.

Agriculture Minister Avraham Katz-'Oz suggested the Labor Party Central Committee meeting be postponed to Wednesday, but Peres objected. The Labor Central Committee will convene tomorrow. [passage omitted]

Peres Discusses Peace Plan During Interview

TA1103173890 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1500 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and finance minister, by Dan Margalit in the studio—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Margalit] The prime minister claims neither the issue of East Jerusalem nor Rabin's proposal of this morning have been debated yet.

[Peres] What is there to debate on the issue of East Jerusalem? Are we divided on this? There is no disagreement on this.

[Margalit] But there is disagreement on the vote of East Jerusalem Arabs.

[Peres] But not on East Jerusalem itself. The difference of opinion is on how Jordanian citizens residing in Jerusalem should vote. One of the Likud ministers said today: They may vote in the Jordanian Parliament. Does he mean they can vote in the Jordanian Parliament, but not for autonomy? What do these two have to do with one another? This is not the issue on the agenda. Mr. Shamir knew perfectly well the Likud and the Alignment disagree on this issue.

The constraints ministers introduced this clause in July 1989. When we protested the introduction of this clause, because it interferes with the peace process, we were told: The Likud Central Committee resolutions bind the Likud, not the government. If there is a desire to break up the peace process....[changes thought] I must say that recently we have had constraints scattered before us all along the entire front.

[Margalit] What, for instance?

[Peres] I will tell you precisely. In addition to the issue of East Jerusalem, Mr. Shamir has all of a sudden remembered Baker owes him an answer on the matter of guarantees, on the five points. That was item number one. The second point is an entirely new condition, which is something we always have taken pains to avoid presenting as a condition: three of the four terms that constitute the introduction to the peace initiative. You may remember that the three terms are: Egypt must improve the ties, the refugee problem must be solved, and Arab countries must launch negotiations with us! Did anyone here think Saudi Arabia, Syria, or Al-Qadhdhafi will make peace with us before we launch negotiations with the Palestinians? It is an obvious pretext. He cannot treat either the nation or us so frivolously! That he should say Al-Asad must first agree! That first of all, Saudi Arabia must agree! What does he think? [passage omitted]

[Margalit] Mr. Peres, can we understand that had the Rabin proposal been raised this morning, it would have been acceptable to you.

[Peres] Yes, yes.

[Margalit] Do you believe you have a majority for a narrow-based government?

[Peres] Until we are called up to do it, we cannot be certain in anything until we count the votes. I will count first and believe later. Votes must be counted, and in a few days, we will know exactly who is with us and who is not. It is useless making guesses; I am not in a rush.

[Margalit] Despite what we heard earlier, are you taking into account the possibility Mr. Shamir may fire you before Thursday, after which all of you will find yourselves in the status of Knesset members, and not ministers in a transitional government?

[Peres, laughing] Listen, I have a weak heart, and you are frightening me awfully. Now I don't know what to do. I am taking everything into account, but what occupies my mind most is the peace process, which is a survival issue for the State of Israel. A ministerial seat can be obtained or given up, but a chance for peace must not be missed. Never.

[Margalit] Mr. Peres, I would like to ask you something about the peace process: Let us suppose a narrow-based government is established. Can it make progress along the lines of the peace initiative—to launch the Cairo talks, talks with a Palestinian delegation that would consult with the PLO, and to allow the vote of East Jerusalem Arabs—while it is confronted by a unified opposition comprising Moledet, Tzomet, Tehiya, Likud, and most of the religious parties?

[Peres] Is paralysis preferable? Paralysis frightens me more than a national decisionmaking government. I want you to know most of our great decisions were made by what you term narrow governments. [passage omitted]

Shamir: Peace Plan Debate 'Should Continue'

TA1103162390 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1503 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in Jerusalem television studio by Dan Margalit in Tel Aviv television studio—live]

[Text] [Margalit] Good evening, Mr. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

[Shamir] Good evening.

[Margalit] The ministers listed to speak in the Inner Cabinet session had their say, and Shim'on Peres asked you to put to a vote the questions James Baker addressed to the Israeli Government. Why did you not comply with his request?

[Shamir] I was convinced, and I still am, that the Inner Cabinet debate on the continuation of the peace process is not yet over. The debate should continue, because it has not yet reached the stage where a conclusion and a vote are needed.

[Margalit] What remains to be clarified? Clarifications have been conducted with the Americans, the Alignment, within the Likud, with the Egyptians, and apparently also with the Palestinians in Tunis. What is there to clarify?

[Shamir] Many issues remain to be discussed, such as the content of the well-known question. The Cabinet has not discussed the question of why the Palestinian delegation should include deportees or Palestinians with some kind of link to Jerusalem at all. This has never been discussed.

[Margalit] Except for today's and the previous Inner Cabinet sessions.

[Shamir] It was not discussed today, either. What is more, what is the big rush to disband and break up the unity government that we laboriously set up? What is the big rush? What would happen if the debate were to last one or two more days or another week? Would the world turn upside down? After all, we all want to achieve the same goal, which is to go ahead with the process and attain peace. If that is the case, why the ultimatums or the big rush?

[Margalit] Mr. Prime Minister, are you not bound by the democratic right to comply with the request of a member of the Inner Cabinet who asks you or demands you conduct an administrative vote on whether to put the Baker initiative to a vote?

[Shamir] There is no such thing. There is no mention of it in the regulations or in our coalition agreement. I am obliged to raise a certain issue when the vice prime minister asks to conduct a debate about it, but I am not obliged to put an issue to a vote whenever I am asked. I can say: Gentlemen, I think we need to further discuss and clarify the matter and later conduct a vote.

What actually happened? The Alignment had said from the outset that if the debate is not concluded, it would regard it as a sort of negative response.

[Margalit] Because matters were actually clear. You, the Likud, told the Alignment you wanted to conduct a preliminary discussion on the position to be voiced in the Cairo talks concerning the question of granting the Arabs of East Jerusalem the right to vote, which the Alignment favors and the Likud objects to, and the exclusion of the PLO from the negotiations. The Alignment replied: Gentlemen, we are not prepared to discuss the matter at all. So, there was nothing else to clarify other than to say yes or no to Baker.

[Shamir] You are not being at all accurate. First of all, we had only just begun discussing the question of Jerusalem. We stated our position, while some Alignment ministers voiced their views—and they did not express the same opinions. As for a PLO attempt to take over the talks, there was no discussion at all. No discussion was conducted on possible scenarios or on what our reaction

would be. The Alignment ministers waited with a stopwatch in hand and said: That is enough, the debate is over. Why? Because Mr. Peres decided so?

[Margalit] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was interviewed this morning on the Voice of Israel and IDF Radio—you are an early riser and you probably heard him. He said: Let us give a positive response to Baker, and, later, if the Likud and the Alignment should differ on the question of granting the Arabs of East Jerusalem the right to vote, this would be decided by the majority of the Knesset plenum. Why did you not grab that proposal with both hands in order to be able to approve the Baker initiative today?

[Shamir] I need not grab anything. To tell you the truth, this was not discussed today by the Inner Cabinet either, and it should have been. This issue should be discussed: when and when not to put the question to the Knesset and under which circumstances.

[Margalit] Are you willing to accept Rabin's proposal?

[Shamir] Had a debate been conducted, I would have taken part in it, but that is not so simple.

[Margalit] Are you willing to accept Rabin's proposal?

[Shamir] On this point, I think if one party believes the issue should be moved from the Cabinet to the Knesset, perhaps then we should approach those who elected the Knesset or, in other words, the people. Perhaps the issue should be settled through elections to the Knesset, but perhaps some of my colleagues think otherwise. In any event, the issue should have been discussed, but it has not been yet. So what is the big rush?

[Margalit] Mr. Shamir, do you favor Mr. Rabin's proposal?

[Shamir] I told you, we did not discuss it. Before a debate has been conducted, I am not obliged to say whether I favor it or not.

[Margalit] Now that things are what they are, what will your next move be? Will you dismiss the Alignment ministers from the government?

[Shamir] I first have to do everything to prevent the dissolution of the government. Second, I have to prevent the Alignment from establishing a narrow-based government, since they will do as they please in such a government, and such a government may do dangerous things for Israel, for Jerusalem, and for everything dear to us.

[Margalit] What will you do in order to attain the goals of preventing the dissolution of the government and the establishment of a narrow-based government led by Shim'on Peres?

[Shamir] First of all, the no-confidence motions should be repelled, because these are attempts to bring down and disband the government. This would clear the way for a narrow-based government, which, in my opinion, would spell trouble for Israel.

[Margalit] Until the Knesset plenum conducts a vote on the no-confidence motions on Thursday, the Labor Party Central Committee will meet tomorrow, and it may allow the Alignment Knesset faction and its ministers to vote in favor of the motions and perhaps bring about the downfall of the government. Will you convene the Inner Cabinet tomorrow, before the Labor Party Central Committee's meeting, in a bid to settle the differences with the Alignment ministers?

[Shamir] First of all, we will hear what the Central Committee decides and discusses, and then we will make up our mind.

[Margalit] Is there a possibility you may fire the Alignment ministers in the aftermath of the Labor Party Central Committee's decision; in other words, if the Central Committee gives them carte blanche to bring down the government?

[Shamir] I hear many rumors, but I am not the one who is spreading them.

[Margalit] When you say you are not the one spreading those rumors, do you mean to say you will not be the one who will fire the Alignment ministers?

[Shamir] Only I can dismiss them, if at all. What I say is: This is not my way. I have not thought of this yet, and have surely not decided this.

[Margalit] Mr. Prime Minister, do you resent the way the Americans conducted the negotiations? Someone told one of our program's editors you said: Had I known the Americans would channel the political initiative the way they did, I would not have not launched it?

[Shamir] Whoever told you that was not totally accurate. I said that, in my opinion, the Americans did not conduct themselves properly throughout their activities concerning the peace process. In my opinion, the Americans distorted the process to some extent when they made the PLO an integral part of it, although it was clear to us that, according to our peace initiative, the PLO should be kept away, rather than be coopted into the process. This is not a question of complaints, but a question of criticism, of agreement or lack of agreement. After all, the peace process is ours, the peace initiative is ours, and it is we, and not the United States, who should determine its moves. After all, the United States offered to help us. Well, we can tell them: Thank you very much, you are helping us, but we do not want to tread this path. We want to take a different course, and we need not blindly follow every U.S. move.

[Margalit] Mr. Prime Minister, if the Americans have so distorted the peace process—a political initiative coauthored by you and Defense Minister Rabin—why did you not embrace the position of the constraints ministers? In fact, this is what Levi, Sharon, and Moda'i demanded of you.

[Shamir] This is totally unrelated to the constraints. This is my position and my view. Today, too, I say the peace process should and can be pursued. I say our approach is the right one, and should be pursued. The initiative should be pursued according to the way we formulated it and as we interpret it, rather than according to the dictates of someone else. I believe we should return to the right course, which was set in our initiative, and I am sure positive results may be attained through the course we set, together with the defense minister.

[Margalit] But there is a significant gap between your position and that of the defense minister. The question is: Assuming the Alignment is outside the government and that the Likud remains in power and you do not have to clarify anything with the Alignment, what will you then tell Mr. Baker?

[Shamir] Yes, of course, the situation will be different then, because we will be joining the process based on our own positions, after examining the new situation. I do prefer a national unity government—that should be clear. All I am doing now is protecting the life of the national unity government and the possibility of pursuing its path. I have no desire to deflect from that path, but where the peace initiative is concerned, I tell our Alignment partners: Let us find a way, let us talk things out, and let us follow one path on the road of implementing that initiative we devised together and started together.

[Margalit] Your demand to conduct a preliminary clarification session with the Alignment was raised only recently—about eight or nine days ago. The impression, Mr. Prime Minister, is that your approach to the, let us say, American proposal has become less flexible in the wake of a very aggressive article written by Beni Begin in response to some American remarks. Before that happened, you suggested no preliminary sessions with the Alignment and you were close to agreeing to the Cairo talks.

[Shamir] I congratulate you on your various psychological analyses of what I was and was not influenced by. I respect the authors of different articles, but they do not influence me to the extent you implied. I read and listen, I hear the recent voices coming from Washington about Jerusalem—remarks which aroused the fury of every Jew in Israel—and I have to react, I have to refer to them. Nowadays I am convinced we absolutely have to pursue the path of our initiative, but at the same time, we have to make an effort to protect the status of Jerusalem, because the issue of Jerusalem will become very crucial when we go to Cairo, where elections will be discussed—including elections in Jerusalem. I think we should insist on attaining a joint Likud-Alignment position on how to act in the event the PLO people participate in the process, or outside it, or if their influence grows. We must attain a joint position on how to break loose from their chains—their constraints, if you like.

[Margalit, laughing] Mr. Shamir, I would like to refer to a MA'ARIV headline from a few days ago, which referred to some of your remarks. You said Peres wants to disband the government, while Rabin wants peace. Are you still of this opinion?

[Shamir] What I know is that I want peace.

[Margalit] And Rabin?

[Shamir] Ask him.

Inner Cabinet Ministers' Remarks Reported

TA1103201490 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 11 Mar 90

[By political correspondent Yig'al Goren]

[Excerpt] The government's political initiative is 10 months old. On its anniversary, it has arrived at a crossroads. Remarks made by various ministers at the Inner Cabinet reflect perfectly well the climate of that morning meeting.

Deputy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Navon warned: The absence of an affirmative reply will have grave implications on our ties with the United States and Egypt. The intifadah will escalate, and there is even a risk of harming the Soviet immigration.

Minister Moshe Qatzav said the U.S. Administration's positions have become more radical, particularly on the issue of Jerusalem. He was rebuked by Minister Rabin: This is the administration's well-known, usual position.

Foreign Minister Arens said it is obvious Washington's style has become harsher. In his opinion, its intentions also have undergone a change, which is not accidental, Arens said.

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stated that in July 1989, at the Central Committee convention in which constraints were imposed, the Likud began taking a public position deviating from the government's peace initiative.

Minister Nisim said: We do not know what guarantees Egypt—that is, the PLO—was given. In his estimate, it was granted far-reaching concessions. Why has the United States refused to show us the document? Is not our fate at stake? Nisim asked.

Minister Shahal added: Shamir has become the chief constrainer among the Likud constraints ministers. We came with solutions much more moderate than even the Camp David accords, said Shahal, but Shamir prefers to save the Likud by providing a negative reply.

Deputy Prime Minister David Levi said: Frankly speaking, we—the Likud and Alignment—were not elected to the Knesset on one list. We have reached the moment of truth that cannot be ignored. We must admit the process is bringing the PLO into the center of the arena, Levi said. We must tell the United States: Friends,

you have altered our initiative, so don't reproach us for rejecting dictums. [passage omitted]

NRP's Hammer Offers Compromise on Crisis

TA1103211690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] Religious Affairs Minister Zvulun Hammer of the National Religious Party has drafted a political document containing a compromise proposal for settling the government crisis and promoting the political process that will be submitted to the Inner Cabinet and each member of the forum of four.

These are the document's four clauses:
1. Israel's position in the talks with the Palestinians will be that Jerusalem is not negotiable and is not part of the autonomy.
2. If the Arab delegation to the talks announces it is a delegation on behalf of the PLO, Israel will not negotiate with it.
3. Jerusalem will not be part of the election process. As for those of its Arab inhabitants who want to vote in another city, the issue will be submitted to the Knesset for a decision before the Israeli delegation departs for Cairo.
4. In response to the U.S. secretary of state's proposal, the Inner Cabinet will agree on the composition of the Palestinian delegation.

Government Facing Seven No-Confidence Motions

TA1203053890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] Following yesterday's indecision by the Inner Cabinet, seven parties have tabled no-confidence motions in the government. Five of these are from left-wing parties in the Knesset and two from the right. The orthodox Agudat Yisra'el Party has not yet decided on the matter, and party sources say a decision will only be taken when the party's leader, Rabbi Moshe Ze'ev Feldman, returns from abroad tomorrow.

SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] leader Arye Der'i said it seems the national unity government has reached the end of the road. Der'i said President Herzog would now have to decide who will be responsible for setting up a new narrow coalition government. He said such a government would be able to cope better with the central problems facing the country.

Hammer: 'Cautious Optimism' After Meeting Shamir

TA1203122690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] About an hour before the Labor Party Bureau session, the political scene is busy with discussions on the compromise proposal raised by Minister Zvulun Hammer. Our correspondent Shula Schmerling has learned the Labor Party Central Committee, which will convene after the bureau meeting, apparently will decide not to disband the government, but to empower the Alignment Knesset faction to take the necessary measures to promote the peace process.

Minister Hammer suggested the issue of the participation of East Jerusalem Arabs in the elections be decided in a forum acceptable to the two major parties: the Inner Cabinet, the Cabinet, or the Knesset plenum. He already has discussed his proposal with Labor leaders Peres and Rabin and with Prime Minister Shamir.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir believes circles associated with Minister Rabin are leaning toward accepting Hammer's proposal. Staffers in the prime minister's bureau say the proposal must be studied.

After his meeting with Mr. Shamir, Minister Hammer expressed cautious optimism. He said he would continue to work to promote his proposal and, as one of these measures, will confer with Minister Arens.

The Labor Party Central Committee will meet this afternoon. The agenda includes speeches by Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin. A resolution then will be adopted and the Central Committee will adjourn. This is reported by our party affairs correspondent, Shlomo Raz.

Labor Party Bureau Adds Constraint to Resolution

TA1203145290 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 12 Mar 90

[By party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel]

[Excerpt] Just a short while ago, the Labor Party Bureau meeting ended here at Bet Berl. The bureau added a slight constraint to the resolution it was expected to adopt. The resolution was supposed to be as follows: The Central Committee authorizes the Labor Party faction in the Knesset to determine the parliamentary steps required in view of the Inner Cabinet decision. The slight constraint says: Not only the Knesset faction, but also the Labor Party Bureau is authorized to take the steps.

This change means a broader body will have to determine what will happen on Thursday, when a vote on the no-confidence motions is conducted at the Knesset. Party Secretary General Mikha Harish will convene the bureau and the faction, forming a 120-member body. The faction is composed of 39 members. The 120 members will determine what steps are to be taken by the Alignment faction.

The constraint was introduced upon the demand of Labor Party hawks, who demanded the body deciding the party's moves be expanded. The change is not monumental, but it is a change nonetheless. [passage omitted]

More on Labor Resolution; Other Parties React

TA1203173590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Excerpts] The Labor Party Central Committee has authorized the party bureau and its faction in the Knesset to decide on the steps required by and resulting from the Likud's stance, which prevented the adoption of a resolution in the Inner Cabinet and aborted the chance to promote the peace process.

The bureau and the faction will convene to formulate their steps before the vote on the no-confidence motions is conducted in the Knesset on Thursday. [passage omitted]

Now, several reactions to the Labor Party Central Committee's resolution. MAPAM [United Workers Party] welcomes the resolution and expresses the hope the Alignment will persist in its refusal to give in to the constraint Minister Zvulun Hammer is trying to impose on the political initiative. Knesset Member Ya'ir Tzaban told our correspondent Yo'el Nir that in view of the grave responsibility assumed by Shamir, who thwarted the initiative, there is no choice but to set up an alternative government. As soon as tonight, MAPAM will begin talks with the religious parties to persuade them to lend a hand to a narrow-based government led by the Alignment.

Tehiya Chairman Yuval Ne'eman has said the nonleadership of Shamir, who after the elections was afraid to establish a government composed of the national bloc, thereby burning the bridges to both the national and the religious parties, is the factor that caused the loss of faith in him, and that Shamir is the one who almost caused the dissolution of the Likud. In Ne'eman's opinion, the Likud must draw the proper conclusions about the man who has led it to the present situation.

King Confers With UK's Thatcher on Emigration

JN1103170790 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Mar 90

['Ali As'ad dispatch from London]

[Text] British Prime Minister Mrs. Margaret Thatcher received Their Majesties King Husayn and Queen Nur at her countryside office today.

Later, His Majesty King Husayn's talks with Mrs. Thatcher dealt—from an Arab viewpoint—with the situation in the Middle East and the efforts to push the peace process forward in light of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's proposals to conduct a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, and the Israeli Government's position on these proposals. It was learned his majesty focused on Soviet Jewish immigration to the occupied Arab territories and the settling of a large number of them in these territories.

The Lebanese crisis and its developments also featured prominently in today's talks, in addition to Iraqi-Iranian negotiations and relations between Jordan and Britain.

His Majesty King Husayn is scheduled to meet later with Douglas Hurd, British secretary of state for foreign and Commonwealth affairs.

Husayn Comments on Soviet Jews, U.S. Role

PM0903161890 Paris LE FIGARO in French 8 Mar 90 p 6

[Interview with King Husayn by Claude Lorieux; date, place not given]

[Excerpt] [Lorieux] The emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel and the occupied territories largely dominated your talks in Paris. Why? Do you believe that this emigration threatens peace in the Near East?

[Husayn] We must be very clear about things. I have never challenged anyone's right to travel and settle wherever he wants. That goes for Soviet Jews, of course. But I am very much afraid of their exercising this right at other people's expense, by depriving others (the Palestinians in the occupied territories—LE FIGARO editor's note) of their rights. So it is a source of anxiety.

[Lorieux] For your own country, Jordan, too?

[Husayn] We have such close ties with the Palestinians and with the struggle they are waging to regain their rights and their territory! So of course if peace is threatened, if no solution is found to the region's problem....

[Lorieux] But anti-Semitism is gaining ground in the USSR. How, then, is it possible to justify curbing the emigration of Soviet Jews?

[Husayn] I am aware of the current reports regarding this. I would be extremely sorry if they are true. But let us be clear about this. What I say must not be used as an argument against anyone's right to live and settle wherever he wants. But in the present instance it could be a matter of expelling people in order to establish others on land belonging to the former. I am afraid of this happening. It worries me.

[Lorieux] Who is to blame? Moscow, which is at last opening its exits, albeit without granting the right to return? Or Washington, which for the first time is imposing a limit on the number of Soviet Jews entering the United States?

[Husayn] Obviously the United States is to blame for this problem. It has always struggled so that Jews in the USSR can be authorized to emigrate—and emigrate to Israel! Instead of accepting on its own territory all those who want to go there.

But I also believe that we Arabs are paying for our inability to speak with a single voice to make ourselves heard worldwide and our inability to coordinate our efforts. This, because the Arab world is very important to the rest of the world. From the strategic viewpoint, it is a bridge between continents. It is rich in energy resources... And it needs peace and justice and an opportunity for progress for its populations.

But I also am afraid we are accumulating threats and dangers above the Near East, at the very time when the rest of the world is starting to resolve its problems. Insufficient attention is paid to the Near East problem.

[Lorieux] What is your opinion of the efforts made by the United States, Egypt, the Palestinians, and Israel to impart a new boost to the peace process? Do you not believe in it?

[Husayn] The Palestinians—I mean the PLO—have been as constructive as possible. They have accepted all the conditions presented to them. I would not say the same of he Israelis. They have demanded something which I consider unprecedented—the right to choose their negotiating partners. If this mode of behavior continues to prevail I do not see how a solution can occur. Especially since I hear Israel's top leaders repeating that Jerusalem is excluded from the talks and that Jerusalem's inhabitants must not be represented in these talks.

[Lorieux] So is Jerusalem a key issue in your opinion?

[Husayn] It is one of the factors. But we have received other suggestions from Israel: Neither the Palestinians of the diaspora nor the PLO must participate in these discussions, and the entire territory is Israeli territory. How is it possible to talk under such conditions?

[Lorieux] Despite the business of the Soviet Jews, and despite your criticisms of successive American administrations, do you believe the United States still is fit to perform a role as arbiter in the Near East?

[Husayn] We must not underestimate the resources the United States possesses in the world today. It could decide to use them to resolve the problems (of our

region—LE FIGARO editor's note). It has not yet done so. We hope it will decide to do so.

But I recognize the need for a united Arab stance. As for the Palestinians, they have done all they can, and I do not believe the cause of peace can be served by trying to force them to take any further steps. They do not have much to give....

[Lorieux] What about Gorbachev? Has he surprised or disappointed you since your official visit to Moscow in December 1987?

[Husayn] I was very impressed by President Gorbachev. We have remained in contact since our meeting. I respect and admire him greatly.

[Lorieux] Has Soviet influence in the Near East not diminished during Gorbachev's reign?

[Husayn] I believe everyone is seeking new priorities. This applies to the Soviet Union, too. But I believe the cause of peace in the Near East is very close to its heart.

It is in the interests of all, starting with the Arabs and Israelis, to find a peace formula. It must be based on UN Security Council Resolution No. 242—the principle of land for peace—and assert the unacceptability of the acquisition of territory through war.

But there so far has been no real effort to tackle the Near East problem in an equal-based manner. [passage omitted]

'Awn Tells Officers To Expect 'Surprise'

NC1103070090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] Today's edition of AL-DIYAR reports that Michel 'Awn told a meeting attended by a number of officers that he will remain in B'abda and that the media organs' explanation of his statements was wrong. He also said: Wait for a political surprise on the ground within the next few days.

'Awn Radio Cites Pro-'Awn Source on Remarks

NC1003133790 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] Commenting on the erroneous interpretation of the interview given by Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn to the media, a source close to Prime Minister 'Awn explained the following:

1. The prime minister rejected the al-Ta'if accord when he said that it is not fair to set preconditions for any dialogue and that it is also not acceptable for any party to impose its ideas in advance on the other party. This is because the dialogue would then be aborted before it is launched.

2. Gen. 'Awn stressed the al-Ta'if accord has fallen because it has not seen the light and has not been implemented.

3. 'Awn said that there must be a new form of an agreement. If some insist on proceeding from the al-Ta'if accord as a basis for any dialogue in the quest for a solution, there is no objection to calling this al-Ta'if II or al-Ta'if plus a comma. This is in order to facilitate launching a dialogue in case others cannot bypass semantics and formalities.

4. As for his readiness for a dialogue with some personalities, Prime Minister 'Awn repeated what he has always stated—that he is ready for a dialogue with anyone, provided the interlocutor is free and able to adhere to any agreement reached.

5. Gen. 'Awn has always stressed his readiness for a dialogue on any draft agreement that safeguards the liberation and sovereignty of Lebanon, provided that the Lebanese people are polled on any form of agreement. This is because any agreement rejected by the people cannot pass.

'Awn Does Not Rule Out Leaving B'abda Palace

NC0903201390 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Excerpt] General Michel 'Awn has expressed his desire for negotiations inside the eastern area and with al-Hirawi. In a statement to the foreign press, Gen. 'Awn expressed his readiness to hold a direct dialogue with al-Hirawi without any conditions. He did not rule out the possibility of his leaving B'abda palace, noting that the palace is not an end in itself. He said that the important thing is to achieve a solution satisfactory to all Lebanese. When this happens, Gen. 'Awn added, I can take a vacation.

Gen. 'Awn also expressed his readiness to engage in a dialogue without preconditions on the al-Ta'if agreement, even if such a dialogue would lead to the abolition or approval of the agreement. [passage omitted]

Al-Husayni Says 'No Dialogue' With 'Awn

NC1003135090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni held a meeting in Ba'labakk at noon today. The meeting was attended by Syrian Defense Minister General Mustafa Talas; Major General Sa'id Bayraqdar, commander of the Syrian forces in Lebanon; Major General 'Isa Shidyaq; Major General Ibrahim Safi; al-Biqa' Acting Governor Salim Jad'un; Ba'labakk District Officer Muhammad al-Mays; al-Biqa' Military District Commander Brigadier General Ibrahim Shahin; Brigadier Nayif Kallas; Lieutenant Colonel Ghassan Milhim; and a number of the Lebanese Army officers.

On this occasion Speaker al-Husayni said: There will be no dialogue with Michel 'Awn, who must be referred to the court. He referred to a possibility of including Samir Ja'ja' in the Lebanese Government.

Fadlallah Says People Can Solve Own Problems

NC1003114290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said the efforts to resolve the Iqlim al-Tuffah problem have not produced any results so far. He noted that the Lebanese are able to to solve their problems by themselves and can foil international and regional plots.

'Allamah Fadlallah denied he has mediated in the hostage issue and hoped this dossier will be closed so that all innocent people will gain freedom. He pointed out that encouraging positive elements exist in this respect.

Shiite Imam Escapes Hizballah Assassination

NC0903161090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Text] At noon today, there was an assassination attempt on 'Allamah Ahmad Zaki Tuffahah, imam of the al-Birr Wa al-Irshad Mosque in al-Musaytibah and member of the sharia committee in the Higher Shiite Islamic Council, on al-Awza'i road. This led to a clash in the area between gunmen from the Amal Movement and Hizballah. The Syrian forces intervened and contained the clash.

According to a statement issued by an official information source in the Amal Movement, a Hizballah armed

group opened fire at 'Allamah Tuffahah as he was passing in al-Awza'i from the south. This compelled his son and his aide to return the fire. Tuffahah, who miraculously escaped injury, turned to the Syrian forces who ensured his safe exit.

The Amal Movement has issued a statement saying that Hizballah groups opened fire at the movement's centers to cover up the crime and delude public opinion that the assassination attempt resulted from a clash with the Amal Movement. The Amal statement denounced the attempt on 'Allamah Tuffahah, who is one of the Muslim symbols of learning and piety in Lebanon. The statement said that the Amal Movement is committed to protecting the people's security and Lebanon's unity, sovereignty, and Arabism, and to ensuring Lebanon's liberation from the Israeli enemy.

Group Denies Role in Kidnapping Swiss Nationals

NC1103162890 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] Mansur Hamdan, official spokesman of Fatah-The Revolutionary Council, has stressed that the movement is continuing its efforts to discover the fate of the two Swiss nationals who were kidnapped in Lebanon some months ago. He declared that there is no truth whatsoever in a Swiss television report on the role of the Revolutionary Council in the kidnapping. He said that the Swiss television reporters were the victims of certain intelligence networks manipulated by the Zionist enemy which is working against us. He challenged the source on whose assertions the television report was based to submit any material evidence.

Hamdan said that the Revolutionary Council, out of its appreciation of the services of the International Committee of the Red Cross, will continue its efforts to discover the fate of the two kidnapped Swiss nationals. He also called on the party which carried out the kidnapping to be brave enough to reveal its identity.

Al-Huss Undergoes 'Simple Surgery' 12 Mar

NC1203093590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] The prime minister's information office issued the following statement:

Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss underwent simple surgery this morning at the American University Hospital in Beirut. His doctors advise that he receive no visitors.

Hospital management issued a statement that said Prime Minister al-Huss' condition is good, the operation was successful, and his excellency will need several days of rest.

Amal-Hizballah 'Skirmishes' at Iqlim al-Tuffah

NC1003095890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] Noticeable tension prevails on the Iqlim al-Tuffah combat lines. Skirmishes with machineguns and rockets took place between the Amal Movement and Hizballah this morning.

Israelis Shell Southern Village; 4 Wounded

NC1003071190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] Yesterday the Israeli enemy shelled the free areas in western al-Biqa' and the south. The shelling left four people wounded in 'Ayn al-Tinah. An enemy force also raked the Jisr al-Dallafah area.

Enemy forces have brought military reinforcements into the border strip area and fired scores of flares over the al-Naqurah and 'Ayta al-Sha'b areas.

'Guarded Calm' Prevails After Overnight Shelling

NC1003071590 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Guarded calm now prevails on the combat lines where many casualties, including two Lebanese Forces martyrs, had been inflicted during the tense period from yesterday afternoon until dawn today.

Some of General 'Awn's army units repeated their violation of the cease-fire and shelled the Yasu' al-Malak area from shortly after 2200 yesterday until late last night with 120-mm mortars from their emplacements in northern al-Matn villages. [passage omitted]

Lebanese Forces' Positions Under Sniper Fire

NC1003105490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] Lebanese Forces positions in Galerie al-Ittihad came under sniper fire at 1115 hours today.

A Lebanese Forces member was slightly wounded in a similiar sniper incident in the vicinity of Hay al-Siryan in al-Ashrafiyah.

We have been told that traffic is moving satisfactorily in both directions at the Nahr al-Kalb crossing.

Cease-Fire Violations Continue 10 Mar

NC1003191790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] Cease-fire violations continued today. The following violations were reported to have taken place between this morning and this evening:

At 1030 army sniper fire slightly injured a Lebanese Forces member in Hayy al-Siryan.

From 1115 until well into the afternoon Lebanese Forces positions in Galerie al-Ittihad came under sporadic sniper fire.

At 1620 the Army fired rockets and directed machine gun fire at the Salome front.

At 1630 army positions in al-Barid and al-'Adliyah fired on the 'Adliyah-Hotel Dieu crossing. Meanwhile, Lebanese Forces positions in that area and in Sinn al-Fil continued to be a target for sniper fire and RPG-7's.

At the same time the Army fired RPG-7's and artillery shells from its positions in the Shalhub building at supply ships off the coast.

Lebanese Forces positions in Salome were still the target of RPG-7's and medium-caliber machine gun fire at 1715.

At 1750 RPG-7's fell on Lebanese Forces positions in Sinn al-Fil.

At 1840 and again at 1850 heavy sniper fire was directed at the Galerie Khabbaz, Hayy al-Siryan, and Salome areas.

Major General Fu'ad Malik, Lebanese Forces chief of staff, had earlier made a statement expressing hope that there would be no more violations to poison the atmosphere and take the efforts to remedy the security situation back to square one.

Casualties Reported in Eastern Area Clashes

NC1003192790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] Clashes involving the use of machine guns and rockets took place this evening between 'Awn's forces and the Lebanese Forces along the combat lines from the Museum to al-Dawrah in the eastern area. The Lebanese Forces media said that a member of the Lebanese Forces was hit by sniper fire. 'Awn's media said that sniper fire from al-Ashrafiyah killed Kamil Kuturi, third public security inspector, and injured three other persons. The report added that sniper fire also killed an unidentified woman.

Booby-Trapped Car Explodes in West Beirut

NC1103145390 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] A booby-trapped car exploded in the Qasqas area of West Beirut this afternoon, causing several casualties. Two injured persons were taken to the al-Barbir hospital and 15 others were taken to the al-Maqasid hospital.

Sniper Fire Wounds 3 in East Beirut

NC1203093290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] The Olivetti area and the vicinity of the Hotel Dieu Hospital have been coming under shelling and intensive bursts of fire since 1020 from the pro-'Awn army positions in the al-'Adliyah building and its vicinity. The shelling and firing are continuing. The Lebanese Forces positions and the residential areas around the al-Sayyidah Church in Sinn al-Fil came under intensive sniper fire at 0830 today, wounding a member of the Lebanese Forces. An elderly man was also seriously wounded and a child slightly injured as a result.

Sniper Fire Kills LF Soldier, Wounds 2 Others

NC1203110290 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] Tension continues to prevail on East Beirut combat lines amid continued sporadic exchanges of machine gun and rocket fire between the 'Awn and Ja'ja' forces, particularly in the Museum, al-'Adliyah, al-Ashrafiyah, Hotel Dieu, al-Dawrah, Sinn al-Fil, and Salome areas. The exchange of fire led to the closure of the Museum crossing in both directions.

The Lebanese Forces information media reported that the Olivetti and Hotel Dieu areas have been coming under sniper and rocket fire from positions held by the 'Awn forces in al-'Adliyah since 1020 today. They said that the Lebanese Forces positions in the al-Sayyidah area, in Sinn al-Fil, also came under heavy sniper fire at 0830 today. A Lebanese Forces [LF] member and two other civilians were wounded.

The 'Awn radio reported that sniper fire at the Museum area left one soldier of the al-Yarzah army dead today.

Palestine Broadcast Praises Al-Asad Speech

JN1103101290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Palestine broadcast: "Talk of the Return" feature]

[Text] O militant brothers, the Arab political and media quarters, like other world political and media quarters, have been discussing current world changes. It is noted, however, that most of the talk voiced by these Arab political and media quarters on world changes has been marked by expressions of specific desires or preconceived stands vis-a-vis some of the parties involved in these changes. On the whole, we can safely say that the Arab issue, particularly developments pertaining to the Palestine question, has almost been overlooked or, to say the least, given little consideration in such talks. Whenever such talk on the Palestine question emerged, it was always marked by preconceived stands toward some parties to these world changes.

However, the comprehensive historic speech delivered by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to mark the glorious 8 March Revolution anniversary came to put things in their right perspective and to enlighten all, telling them that these world changes are strongly linked to the Arab destiny. President al-Asad did this when he said that Israel is the main beneficiary of these world changes. Hence, the Arab nation must draw the necessary lessons and conclusions. We admit that world changes are currently taking place. Given this factor, the Arab nation can, for its part, make positive changes and thus counter these world changes.

President al-Asad accurately described the current Arab state of affairs. His words will awaken those who have not yet been awakened to the seriousness of the current world changes, particularly as they concern the Arab issue. President al-Asad says: It is regrettable that we are seeing other strong nations show solidarity at a time when the Arab nation is disintegrating despite the fact that it is weak and facing grave dangers. Syria is aware of the magnitude of future dangers which pose threats to all Arab states and urges all parties to rise to the level dictated by these circumstances. Syria also requires that personal whims and animosities be brushed aside. This reflects an accurate and comprehensive understanding of the world changes. Once the Arabs begin to act according to this understanding, they will be in a position to show solidarity in the face of all the grave dangers facing them. The March anniversary speech delivered by President leader al-Asad is an appropriate speech delivered at the right time. It exactly suits the circumstances.

Talas Visits Army Unit on Lebanese Territory

JN1003205590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Excerpts] At the instructions of President Hafiz al-Asad and as part of our people's celebrations of the 27th anniversary of the glorious 8 March Revolution, General Mustafa Talas, deputy general commander of the Army and the Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, this noon went on an inspection visit of one of our units functioning on fraternal Lebanese territory.

Upon his arrival, a batch of the field honor guard officially saluted him. He then shook hands with the leader of the unit and the ranking officers there. Amid echoing applause and cheers hailing our great party's life, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and the model leader Hafiz al-Asad, the general delivered a speech at the outset of which he conveyed the love and greetings of the struggling comrade Hafiz al-Asad and his wishes to his fighting sons for success in performing their pan-Arab and humanitarian duty on fraternal Lebanese territory. [passage omitted]

He also discussed developments in the Arab situation, especially in the Lebanese arena. He affirmed Syria's continuing support for the legitimate Lebanese government in its efforts to implement what the Lebanese agreed on through the al-Ta'if document formulation, and for rendering the conspiracy of fragmentation and destruction a failure, which 'Awn and Ja'ja' are bloodily executing in the eastern sector of Beirut with clear and great support from the Zionist entity and the fascist regime in Iraq.

He also emphasized Syria's firm and strong stance in support of Lebanon, which both Syria and the Lebanese people want to see united, strong, free, and active with its Arab brothers.

The general affirmed that time and justice are on our side, and our power now is stronger than ever before.

The general then detailed the dangers of Jewish emigration to occupied Palestine, asserting that the United States with all its might backs this emigration, which constitutes a blatant aggression on Arabs since it carries dangers of aggression and expansion into Arab territories. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Resistance Reports Armed Forces Retake Bagram

BK1003002290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1808 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Text] Islamabad, March 9 (AFP)—The Afghan resistance said Friday [9 March] the key northern air base of Bagram had been retaken by Kabul government troops, which have moved to attack army rebel pockets in northern Afghanistan.

The resistance reported renewed fighting between troops loyal to President Najibullah and followers of former Defense Minister General Shahnawaz Tanay in the northern provinces of Balkh and Konduz, bordering the Soviet Union.

In a press release here the opposition Afghan Interim Government (AIG), based in Pakistan, said the clashes in Balkh were triggered by the arrest of the province's secret police chief, indicating he had supported the coup bid.

Fighting broke out Thursday and increased in intensity Friday, the AIG said.

A spokesman for Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, commander of the Northern Council resistance faction, said pro-Najibullah units were moving against rebel troops in several northern areas.

The Bagram Air Base, 50 kilometres (35 miles) north of Kabul, was reported virtually destroyed in heavy fighting after serving as a staging point for bombing raids on the presidential palace and other key installations when the putsch was launched Tuesday.

It "has been recaptured by troops loyal to Najibullah," the AIG release said. "Only the artillery brigade still resists."

The mujahidin said they had bombarded the airport at Mazar-e Sharif, the Balkh capital, from which Kabul loyalist troops had launched bombing raids in their bid to win back Bagram.

Various sources reported clashes elsewhere around the country, including the area of Herat city, near the Iranian border, Jalalabad, near the frontier with Pakistan, and Qandahar, in the south.

The AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA), close to fundamentalist faction leader Golbuddin Hekmatyar, said mujahidin fighters had blocked Salang Highway linking Kabul to the Soviet Union.

The AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP) agency said mujahidin were using heavy weapons, including rockets, in fighting around Jalalabad.

Meanwhile, the AIG statement said 190 government officers and soldiers had defected to the mujahidin in Lowgar Province, south of Kabul, and 20 had defected with their weapons in Khowst, southeastern Afghanistan.

Damaged Air Base 'Inoperative'

BK1003093890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0926 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] Kabul, March 10 (AFP)—Afghanistan's largest military airfield, bombed while being used as an operational base by leaders of this week's failed coup against the Kabul government, remained inoperative Saturday [10 March].

Pilots loyal to Soviet-backed President Najibullah bombed the Bagram air base, 64 kilometres north of Kabul on Tuesday and Wednesday to render it unusable by coup supporters, a government spokesman said.

The runways were damaged in the raids, which effectively put the air base out of commission, the spokesman said. He did not reveal the extent of the damage. Government artillery units also attacked renegades holed up at Bagram, he said.

The coup bid, led by former Defence Minister Shahnawaz Tanay, was mounted mainly with backing of sections of the Air Force, which made several bombing runs on the presidential palace here. The putsch was put down by loyalist troops within 24 hours.

Diplomatic sources said 48 fighter planes were at Bagram when the coup was launched Tuesday, but only five of them took part in bombing raids on Kabul.

The government has said that many pilots were forced into the air against their will by the coup leaders, but that they refused to carry out orders and landed elsewhere.

The pilots who owed allegiance to Mr. Tanay mainly targeted the palace here, but some civilian areas in the city's center were also bombed by Soviet-built MIG-21 and SU-22's, which carried out several sorties over the city.

Further on Armed Forces, Mujahidin Fighting

Mujahidin Seize 5 Jalalabad Posts

BK1003111890 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say mujahidin have stepped up their operations against the Kabul regime forces in several provinces. They are reported to have captured five security posts of the Kabul regime in the north of Jalalabad city. All the arms and ammunition in these posts were also seized by them.

One report says a military convoy heading toward Kabul from Gardeyz joined the mujahidin in Lowgar.

In Spin Buldak area of Qandahar, four Kabul regime troops have surrendered to the mujahidin along with

their weapons and a tank. The mujahidin shot down a fighter plane of the regime which attacked their positions there. The pilot of the plane was killed.

Mujahidin Kill 46 Kabul Soldiers

BK1003142590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that 26 Kabul regime military personnel, including two brigadiers, three majors, and five captains, have been killed in a major attack by mujahidin at Pol-e Sarki in Kabul. The mujahidin also reportedly attacked a supply convoy near Pol-e Khomri along Kabul-Hayratan highway, killing 20 soldiers and destroying a number of military vehicles.

Another report says that during an operation in the outskirts of Sarowbi, mujahidin damaged eight tanks and destroyed two military vehicles and some installations.

More Heavy Fighting Reported

BK1003160090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] Latest reports from Afghanistan say heavy fighting is continuing in the country, and mujahidin are increasing pressure on Kabul from the Paghman side. The mujahidin have surrounded Meydan ity in Vardak Province and also destroyed ammunition dumps at (Tapar Kadveh), Bagram, and Dar ol Aman areas, and Rish Khvor Garrison. Reports say that extensive damage has been caused to Pol-e Keshti Mosque, Dar ol Aman, the airport, Bala Hesar, Signal Brigade area, the Ministry of Defense building, and the presidential palace in Kabul. The Kabul regime has banned the entry of citizens in the airport and Ministry of Defense areas.

According to a REUTER report, several transport planes have been seen flying to and from the Kabul Airport. (?Some) of the planes were seen flying toward the Soviet Union to the north. Afghanistan's major air base at Bagram north of the capital remained closed for the fourth day today.

Yesterday mujahidin captured four Kabul regime posts in (Gard-e Qaf) area, about 20 km north of Jalalabad. At Paktia Garrison, the Kabul regime's besieged troops have offered to surrender to the mujahidin.

Reports of mujahidin operations against Kabul regime forces have been received from other areas, including Pol-e Khomri [word indistinct] of Afghanistan.

Correspondents say that 1,700 military personnel were either killed or wounded as a result of the attempt to overthrow the Kabul regime.

Professor Sayyaf, the prime minister of the Afghan Interim Government [AIG], has said that the mujahidin of the interim government have not supported the Khalq or Parcham factions and that they have stepped up their military activities in accordance with the decisions of the AIG. In a statement, he said the mujahidin have already captured many Kabul regime posts and centers. The mujahidin have been instructed to provide refuge to persons belonging to both factions, in accordance with the announcement of general amnesty by the AIG. All commanders and mujahidin have been asked to pay special attention to the needs of those citizens who are fleeing the cities due to fighting between the Khalq and Parcham factions. The AIG prime minister urged those belonging to the two factions to lay down their arms and surrender themselves to the AIG, so as to resolve the Afghan problem and to provide protection to their families.

95 Killed, 197 Civilians Wounded

BK1003151290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1504 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Kabul, March 10 (AFP)—Ninety-five civilians were killed and nearly 200 wounded in fierce fighting surrounding the abortive coup against the Soviet-backed government of Afghan President Najibullah, officials said here Saturday [10 March].

The toll was revised from 25 killed and nearly 150 wounded mentioned by Mr. Najibullah at a press conference Thursday, a day after the coup was crushed.

A government spokesman said the toll had risen as a number of bodies were discovered in the wreckage of houses bombed by rebel-flown planes.

He said 197 civilians were wounded in the fighting between government forces and supporters of the coup leader, sacked Defence Minister Shahnawaz Tanay.

"The military casualties will be provided after they are evaluated," he said.

No estimates of military casualties in the day and night of heavy combat that started Tuesday have yet been released by the government.

The revised casualty count was released as Prime Minister Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand met heads of diplomatic missions here Saturday to request aid to repair damage left by the fighting. [passage omitted]

Wakil Meets International Organization Heads

LD1003094290 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] Kabul, March 9, BAKHTAR—'Abdul Wakil, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, RA, had a meeting at the headquarters of Foreign Ministry on March 8, with the heads of UNDP [United Nations Development Program], UN High Commission for Refugeees, UNICEF, UNESCO, FAO [Food and Agricultural Organization], UNGOMAR [UN Good Offices Commission in Afghanistan and Pakistan],

WHO, organising office for UN economic assistance for Afghanistan and the Red Cross International Committee in the RA.

The Afghan foreign minister provided them with information about restoration of a normal situation in the country after the treacherous and abortive coup of Shahnawaz-Golbuddin and the full control of the government the RA all over the country.

The Afghan foreign minister stated that the situation is quite normal in the country and the UN offices in the RA may continue their missions with full confidence.

Similarly, the Afghan foreign minister attracted their attention to the heavy losses inflicted mainly to the civilians and public utility organisations from the treacherous act.

Reciprocally, the heads of international agencies promised their urgent assistance.

Awami Chairman Assures Najibullah of Support

LD0903202190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Text] Here is a message from esteemed 'Abdul Wali Khan, chairman of the Awami National Party:

Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan. First, my regards. I have heard through the radio that the conspiracy by the enemies against the April Revolution and yourself has failed and was defeated.

All the members of our party congratulate you and support you. We assure you that we back you in the defense of the April Revolution and in protecting Afghanistan's independence and national sovereignty. We pray for your good health in defense of the April Revolution. With regards,

[Signed] 'Abdul Wali Khan, Chairman of the Awami National Party

BAKHTAR Cites Havana Envoy on Coup Attempt

LD1003093990 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0518 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] Kabul, March 9, BAKHTAR—A news conference was held on Tuesday [6 March] at the residence of the ambassador of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] in Havana about the abortive coup staged by Shahnawaz-Golbuddin on March 6 in which Cuban and foreign journalists, some members of Asian section at the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and employees of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, had taken part.

'Abdul Majid Sarbuland, ambassador of the RA in Havana disclosed the traitorous act of the plotter and read the statement of the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces of the RA and made it clear that the state of the RA has dominant [as heard] over the situation and the condition is normal in the country. Then, he replied to questions of journalists.

The details of the news conference will be reflected through the Cuban mass media. Likewise, the text of his interview has been published in radio-television and in the periodicals of that country.

Najibullah Awards, Withdraws Honorary Titles

LD1003112490 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Text] In accordance with a decree by esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, the title of Hero of the Republic of Afghanistan was given to Senior Captain pilot Habibullah, son of Babo Jan, in recognition of his valuable services and worthy participation in foiling the failed coup d'etat of Shahnawaz-Golbuddin.

Also based on another decree by esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, the title of Hero of Afghanistan and right and concession of the post of brigadier general has been taken away from 'Abdul Wahab, son of 'Abdul Rauf, as a result of his participation in the failed coup d'etat.

Coup Collaborators Underestimate National Will

LD1003161190 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Text] The failed Shahnawaz-Golbuddin coup d'etat, which is now being transformed into a dark page of history of confrontation against restoration of peace in Afghanistan, is still at the center of attention of domestic and world opinion. It is now perfectly clear that the 6 March coup d'etat has not been an isolated move by a power-hungry and discontented group against the Afghan Government, but has been an important section of a unique and previously-organized operation against the Republic of Afghanistan under the leadership of Pakistan's military intelligence organization.

One year ago when the last Soviet soldier left our country's soil, the intelligence organization of Pakistan, who had the responsibility for the so-called Afghan policy of that country, stressing the military solution of Afghanistan issue in favor of opposition forces, did not allow the framework of a political settlement through implementation of the Geneva Accords and the creation of a broad-based government in the country to try to put an end to war in Afghanistan.

During the past year the Pakistani military intelligence was engaged in planning and arranging military plans and pressure to overthrow the Government of Afghanistan. The huge offensive against Jalalabad, which took place with the participation of the Pakistani army and militia and other foreign experts and officers, the attack on Khowst, pressure on blocking Kabul-Hayratan and Kabul-Jalalabad highways, the war of missiles against Kabul, the military efforts to conquer the main cities of

the country and finally, the infiltration of the ranks of the Armed Forces and the preparation of the plan for an anti-state armed conspiracy, one after another exposed the dimensions of the activities of Pakistani intelligence to overthrow the Afghan Government by military means. In all these operations the Pakistani intelligence tried to give a special share and role to Golbuddin Hekmatyar and his so-called Islamic Party.

After the defeat of the joint, continuous, and broad offensive by Pakistani and war-mongering extremist forces on Jalalabad, Golbuddin Hekmatyar tried to revive his acquaintance and previous connections in order to implement other operations to gain power. During his secret trip to Afghanistan, which was also reported by Western mass media, he had meetings in Paghman and other points around Kabul with Shahnawaz's representatives and his other allies who had hidden themselves under the guise of important party and state positions. It was exactly the result of these meetings that the previous Golbuddin- Shahnawaz contacts and their colleagues which may have been reserved for another day was reactivated to build a new alliance with the aim of destroying the state through a military coup d'etat. It was not accidental that Golbuddin, after returning from Afghanistan, was constantly speaking of his influence among the Armed Forces. However, to hide his dealing with the most extremists forces this side of the line and to deceive public opinion, he stated that he made agreements with officers of the RA Armed Forces and if they attempted a coup against the state and created a government with the commanders around Kabul, he would be ready to support it. After six months, under the supervision of this government, elections will be held and the next government will be formed.

Now it has been made clear with whom his dealings were: With forces who until yesterday were overtly or covertly regarding the policy of national reconciliation and the policies of Dr. Najibullah in this direction as treachery to the aspirations of the April revolution and calling themselves the most loyal followers of the so-called revolutionary ideology. These were people who were not only against the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] giving up the monopoly of power but were even regarding as treason the wise and flexible views of the party leadership regarding changing the name [of the party] and its manifested objectives. It is interesting that Gulbuddin chose a common path with Shahnawaz or with Asadollah Sarwari. A question arises: Golbuddin and other extremists like him apparently reject the humane proposals of the Government of Afghanistan on reconciliation, and in pursuing a political settlement and national understanding on the grounds that they will never reconcile with the PDPA, on the other hand together with persons like Asadollah Sarwari, who has been responsible for the murder of tens of thousands of people and numerous crimes against the people, are making plans for the overthrow of the government.

History is once again repeated. Extremists of the right and left, when their interests necessitate, become each other's friends. Because the madness of power-seeking connect them with each other. However, these alliances come to being when its leadership is with a coordination organization such as the military intelligence organisation of Pakistan. The cowardly escape of Shahnawaz and a number of organizers of the coup d'etat to Pakistan, the willful abandoning of his job by Asadullah Sarwari and his contacts with Pakistani intelligence authorities, and the escape of Pasha Gul Wafadar, who at a time was connected to Shahnawaz-Sarwari-Golabzoy clique and who after the failed coup d'etat of 4 December 1989 went to Paskistan and called himself as a long-standing member of the so-called Hezb-e Eslami, brings the fact to light that the Pakistani intelligence organization had these people in its hands for a long time, and was using them as pawns against Kabul and was coordinating their activities.

It should be said that the military intelligence of Pakistan and Golbuddin Hekmatyar's group, in collaboration with Shahnawaz, was playing a game which was not only directed at neutralizing the framework of political settlement of the Afghanistan issue and overthrowing the republican state of Afghanistan, but also was directed against weakening other opposition groups and even driving them out of active political presence in the future of the country.

Anti-peace forces in Islamabad and Peshawar once again tried their luck, mistakingly, and this time too they missed their target. The main reason for the failure of the plan of those who want to eliminate the Government of Afghanistan through military pressure is they cannot or do not want to take into account the hard realities of the Afghan society. They should know the strength of the state of Afghanistan and its principled peace-loving policy supported by its people. It is a government which can defend itself and establish peace in the country.

Council of Ministers' Resolution on 'Conspiracy'

LD1003235890 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] The Council of Ministers Department of Affairs reports that a full working session of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] was held this morning in the headquarters of the Council of Ministers, chaired by Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers, and attended by deputy chairmen of the Council of Ministers, ministers, and heads of departments of the RA to determine the losses and compensation for losses caused during the recent conspiracy against state and private property.

A resolution in this regard was unanimously adopted, to which we draw the attention of compatriots:

Measures to determine losses and compensation for losses caused during the recent conspiracy by the enemies of the people of Afghanistan to state and private property:

The Council of Ministers of the RA strongly condemns the treacherous conspiracy of 6 March 1990 organized from outside, and implemented by [word indistinct] sold-out and treacherous individuals linked to foreign enemies of the country, in collusion with the nation-seller Golbuddin group, and headed by Shahnawaz Tanay, as an act against the homeland and the people of Afghanistan. It points out that the precise organization of the leadership of the Armed Forces of the RA, headed by esteemed Najibullah, president and supreme commander of the Armed Forces of the RA, the timely and resolute reaction of the units and companies of the Armed Forces stationed in Kabul, and the [word indistinct] cooperation of the residents of Kabul, the conspiracy was crushed and [words indistinct] in the shortest possible time.

It should be mentioned that as a result of this bloody and shameful conspiracy, which was mainly directed at civilian and state targets of Kabul, huge human, financial, and material losses were inflicted on organs of state departments, private enterprises, and the noble inhabitants of Kabul. An (?economic) commission under the chairmanship of Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers, was established in accordance with the decision of the Supreme Council for Defense of the Homeland. The commission, in its first session on 7 March, initially assessed the [word indistinct] losses and destruction, and appointed two separate commissions under the deputy chairmen of the Council of Ministers in order to determine the losses and damage, and the [word indistinct] compensation.

The results of the work of the commission, and preliminary figures, indicate that during the treacherous [word indistinct] conspiracy, 197 inhabitants of Kabul were wounded and taken to city hospitals for treatment, where 25 of them died. Approximately 70 other martyrs were pulled from the ruins caused by the barbaric traitors' bombardment against the people. The total number of civilian martyrs in the recent conspiracy has reached 95 persons. Some 125 wounded people were discharged from hospitals after receiving medical treatment. Similarly, necessary first aid was rendered to those people who, as a result of this barbaric and terroristic action, were psychologically affected and who temporarily lost their mental and physical balance. Serious damage was inflicted on a number of historic and ancient buildings, such as the Darulaman Palace [headquarters of Defense Ministry], Tappa-e Tajbeg Palace, the presidential palace, the communal Pol-e Kheshti Mosque, and dozens of other government buildings. In addition to these buildings, economic damage which has so far been determined [words indistinct] includes complete destruction of 230 shops, four markets, nine restaurants, 55 houses, and 282 apartments. Hundreds of other houses and instalations received partial damage. Tens of thousands of windows of houses, apartments, office blocks, and [word indistinct] public institutions have been broken. While economic damage is much [word indistinct] higher, and amounts to hundreds of millions of afghani, fortunately, human losses, in proportion to the plan of the conspirators, and as a result of selfless and timely action by the inhabitants, security organs, party organizations of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA], and social organizations during the conspirators' barbaric bombardment, have not been higher.

The Council of Ministers of the RA is grateful for the timely action taken by the responsible persons of state administration organs who, with a sense of responsibility and humanism, took urgent security measures for the protection of the life of their members and the activities of the noble people of Kabul. It was rendered to protect the life of their families and they manifested their wisdom and vigilance in a sensitive and difficult time.

The role of security units, including air defense batteries, which had the duty of defending the city, and which fearlessly and responsibly prevented the occurance of a grave incident which could have caused massive human losses is outstanding, and deserves appreciation.

Despite the continuation of bombardment and savage air raids on radio and television installations, the voice of the RA has been persistently relayed to the noble compatriots and to the world as a result of the self-sacrificing work of the technical and broadcasting employees of radio and television. Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials played a considerable part in this by their timely explanation of the developments in the RA.

As a result of the indefatigable efforts of medical organs' officials of the city of Kabul, a number of critically injured people were rescued. The Afghan Red Crescent rendered [word indistinct] medical and material services. Also, action taken by the ministries of education, higher and vocational education, public health, and by nursery staff helped prevent loss of life among pupils and students. Moreover, efforts by electricity workers, the (?Kabul bread complex), the department of telecommunications, the petroleum corporation, urban and haulage transport institutions, and the Kabul municipal water corporation ensured the continuation of work in the aforementioned fields. Also, due to the measures taken by the financial and monetary organs, the public treasury was protected from any damage.

The Council of Ministers of the RA notes that the residents of the city of Kabul and other provinces of the country expressed their loathing for the coup plotters and conspirators by holding meetings and saying mass prayers, which demonstrates that the people support the policies of the government for the continuation and the

deepening of national reconciliation, for a political solution to the problems related to Afghanistan, democratization of society from a social and political point of view, and the strengthening of the country's armed forces.

Similarly, economic, social, and cultural institutions, political parties, social organizations, and social personalities from various walks of life asserted their support for and sympathy with the government of the RA by sending messages, and vigorously condemned the treacherous acts of the conspirators. Moreover, some armed opposition groups which are not irreconciliable expressed their inclination for cooperation with the RA, in opposition to the conspirators and warmonger extremists.

Expressing gratitude for the self-sacrificing and heroic work, bravery, and gallantry of the members of the Armed Forces, state administration organs, party and social organizations, and the brave and patriotic residents of the country, the Council of Ministers of the RA approves the following in determining material and financial compensation and assistance to the those residents who suffered damage as a result of the failed treacherous and antination and anti-Afghan coup d'etat:

1. Ministries and state administrations are assigned to find those officers who demonstrated self-sacrifice, discipline, and the sense of deep responsibility, and commend them in keeping with the existing rules, determine damage suffered by the the related organs, and report in a week's time to the commission of the Council of Ministers to determine the damage suffered.
2. A commission consisting of representatives of the Ministry of Planning, a convener, the central administration of city construction and dwelling construction, the Ministry of Construction, the Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Endowments, and the Ministry of Defense will determine the damage inflicted on Darulaman Palace, Tajbeg Palace, the presidential palace, and Pol-e Kheshti Mosque, taking into account the historic and political importance of the buildings, and will present their proposals for reconstruction work within a month to the Council of Ministers.
3. The ministries of commerce and transport will take immediate action for the transportation of 1,500 tonnes of glass from state institutions and 500 tonnes of glass from merchants at Hayratan port to be made available for damaged state institutions and residential dwellings, and also (?the situation of market).
4. Kabul municipality and city construction and dwelling construction administration of the Ministry of Construction Affairs will take immediate and urgent action for the repair of roads and the removal of the craters in the roads in such a manner that work will be completed by the end of this week.
5. The ministries of communication and water and electricity, the central administration of city construction and dwelling construction will take urgent measures for the repair of telephone and electricity lines and the water network, and to complete the related work by the end of the current week. They will take action within a month for overhaul and repair work.
6. The ministries of commerce and light industry and food will accelerate the distribution of rationed and consumer goods in the city of Kabul through retail government networks in line with previously determined rules.
7. The Commission of the Council of Ministers for determining damage will present its proposals for the start of rehabilitation work on damaged installations within 10 days to the Council of Ministers.
8. The Council of Ministers commission for obtaining domestic and international aid will coordinate urgent measures in line with the guidelines previously set out.
9. While considering the sympathy of the people in this respect, the Council of Ministers requests all members of government and private institutions, private businessmen and individuals not to spare their material and financial aid to compensate losses inflicted on the residents and on state installations, for the rehabilitation of ruined sites, and to extend necessary help to needy and suffering families.
10. The Afghanistan Bank will open a separate account to receive funds to help the families in need, and will give details to the residents through the mass media.

[Signed] Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers

Iranian Magazine Interviews Najibullah on Coup

LD1003201190 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Telephone interview with President Najibullah by Iranian magazine RESALAT correspondent Forqani; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Forqani] The recent coup d'etat mounted by Shahnawaz Tanay in Afghanistan—was in a party [words indistinct], or was it a coup d'etat instructed from abroad. If it was a coup d'etat instructed from abroad, which countries have been involved and had a role in the coup d'etat.

[Najibullah] The failed coup d'etat led by Shahnawaz, former minister of defense, was not an internal faction coup d'etat. It was organizd by the military intellegence agency of Pakistan in collaboration with anti-nation and anti-government extremists and fundamentalists, led by Golbuddin. The escape of the coup d'etat plotters to Pakistan, and the granting of asylum to them, and also the meeting of Shahnawaz with Gulbuddin is clear proof of the involvement of Pakistan's military intellegence. The government of Afghanistan formally lodged its protest with the government of Pakistan, and asked it to return the national traitors and the aircraft to the Republic of Afghanistan [RA].

[Forqani] Could you please tell me whether the government of Afghanistan intends taking practical action against Pakistan?

[Najibullah] We believe in the principle of good understanding, and the solution of the regional or bilateral problems through dialogue and negotiation. Therefore, on the basis of that principle, we are not interested in vindictiveness, but we call on them to solve all problems through good-neighborly relations on the basis of the principles of international law.

[Forqani] Mr Najibullah, how is [words indistinct] of the Khalq faction in the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA]? Will that faction be purged or will it stay in the PDPA?

[Najibullah] The failed Shahnawaz-Golbuddin coup d'etat has no links with Khalq faction. In the course of the coup d'etat all PDPA members resolutely resisted the coup plotters, and heroically and unitedly defended their positions against their attacks.

[Forqani] Recently [words indistinct] five members of the Party Central Committee and its secretaries have been removed by you. Please tell when new individuals will replace them; and have those individuals been selected yet, or not?

[Najibullah] The expulsion of some people from the PDPA Politburo and the Central Committee will be discussed in the first regular session of the Party Central Committee, as was decided at the PDPA Central Committee Politburo session. A due decision will be made in this respect.

[Forqani] When will new individuals be appointed?

[Najibullah] The decision will be made in the regular session of the Central Committee, which will be convened very soon.

[Forqani] [Words indistinct] taking into account that Gulbuddin is apparently a leader of the Muslim mujahedin, and Shahnawaz Tanay is an extremist member of the Khalq faction of the PDPA. What, in your opinion, is the justification of this cooperation?

[Najibullah] As I told you in the answer to the previous question, one can not relate the Shahnawaz-Golbuddin plot to the PDPA, or this or that. The real motive of the organizers of the coup d'etat was their opposition to the national reconciliation policy and to a political solution of the Afghan problem. For instance. Golbuddin, as the most extremist element in the opposition, persistently opposed a peaceful solution to the Afghan problem, and always wanted the continuation of war. Two extremisms have been patched together. Their basic aim was opposition to peace and to the restoration of peace and security in the country.

[Forqani] News agencies report that coup plotters are still fighting in the north of Afghanistan. What is the situation in the north of the country bordering the Soviet Union.

[Najibullah] The situation is completely calm in the north of Afghanistan.

[Forqani] You mean there is no fighting there?

[Najibullah] There is absolutely no fighting there.

[Forqani] Is Baghram air base fully reoccupied?

[Najibullah] Baghram air base was reoccupied at 2200 on the day the coup d'etat was mounted. The situation there is completely under control. At the moment reconstruction work is vigorously in progress.

[Forqani] is the coup d'etat now completely crushed, or does resistance still continue?

[Najibullah] The whole coup process continued from 1300 on 6 March to 1300 on 7 March. Afterwards the Armed Forces of the RA and its political forces took full control of the situation.

[Forqani] Thank you for the interview.

[Najibullah] Thank you, too. I would like to express my gratitude for the previous interview with you, which was conducted realistically and with faithfulness, despite the fact that you faced some problems with certain elements. But you fulfilled your mission like a true journalist. Accept my compliments.

[Forqani] Thank you.

[Najibullah] Thank you.

Mujahidin Capture Posts; Fighting Continues

Capture 2 Posts Near Sarowbi

BK1103090190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that the mujahidin have captured two more security posts in the Kabul region's Kuh-e Safi, near Sarowbi. In the operation, 26 soldiers, including a number of senior officers of the Kabul regime, were killed. Nearly 70 officers have been captured with a substantial quantity of arms and ammunition.

The commander of an artillery regiment in the Kabul region's Shakar Darreh have surrendered to the mujahidin along with 12 officers and soldiers. An armored squadron, a tank regiment headquarters and a missile launching station were completely destroyed during the fighting.

Rebels Seize Arms

BK1103142890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that fierce fighting is continuing between mujahidin and Kabul regime forces at various parts of the country. The mujahidin launched an attack on the cantonment city of Khowst and captured two posts and a huge quantity of arms and ammunition. More than (?six) officers of the Kabul regime surrendered to the mujahidin at Bagram. The

mujahidin also destroyed two tanks at (Deh Sabz) District of Kabul. Ten militia personnel of the Kabul regime surrendered to mujahidin in the area.

Capture 7 Posts Around Khowst

BK1203074390 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 12 Mar 90 p 8

[Text] Peshawar, March 11: As many as 12 mujahidin were killed and 40 wounded in bombing and Scud missiles attack by Kabul regime last night as the battle for Khowst in Paktia Province intensified and entered a decisive stage.

Mujahidin sources in Miranshah in North Waziristan Agency claimed that the regime retaliated after losing seven military posts around Khowst yesterday. These included the Mira and Samar Band College posts plus smaller posts like Mussali, Shah Wali Qala, Shalkai Malanay and Pila.

The mujahidin said they were now bracing for an assault on the Khowst airport in the Majdhani area. Their commanders sounded hopeful of capturing the airport soon. They said the regime had intensified bombing of mujahidin positions while Scud missiles were also fired. They said Khowst residents were fleeing from their homes. Surprisingly, Radio Kabul did not mention the fighting in Khowst in its news today.

Kill 250 Kabul Troops

BK1203142590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] In Afghanistan, more than 250 Kabul regime troops have been killed in operations launched by mujahidin in various provinces. At least 200 soldiers were killed when mujahidin attacked the Kabul regime regiment near Jabal Os Saraj city in Parvan Province. Fierce fighting has been reported from (Damishk) area of Baghlan Province in which 30 soldiers were killed. Two mujahidin also lost their lives and six others sustained injuries. Eight tanks were targeted and 18 vehicles set ablaze in the fighting. In Pol-e Khomri, an ammunition dump was captured and the city was besieged. Qandahar was also besieged and an ammunition dump was destroyed by mujahidin rocket fire. A war plane was also shot down at Qandahar.

Keshtmand, Indian Envoy Discuss Coup Attempt

LD1103105490 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 0830 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] According to a report by a BIA correspondent, esteemed Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers, met yesterday morning in his office with His Excellency Mohammad Hamid Ansari, ambassador and plenipotentiary extraordinary of the Republic of India to Kabul. They discussed the failed coup d'etat of Shahnawaz-Golbuddin, which was launched under the supervision of Pakistan's military intelligence service, and other topics of mutual interest. Keshtmand expressed regret at the incident [as heard] outside the Indian Embassy in Kabul resulting from an air raid during the coup d'etat attempt.

The Indian ambassador expressed his and his government's pleasure at the outcome, and added that in such conditions where favorable ground is being prepared for a political solution to the issue of Afghanistan, it is a cause for pleasure that the government of Afghanistan was able to prevent such a dangerous and extremist incident, and to further pave the ground for the establishment of a durable peace in Afghanistan. Mohammad Hamid Ansari expressed the readiness of the friendly country, India, to render assistance to the victims of the 6 March coup d'etat attempt.

Radio Commentary Blames Coup Attempt on U.S.

LD1103142490 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1130 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Different views have been expressed about the role of the United States in connection with the failed coup d'etat by Shahnawaz Tanay and Golbuddin Hekmatyar. At the moment the question is whether or not the United States was behind the 6 March coup attempt. If the answer is yes, then how, and with what aim?

U.S. authorities have not officially confirmed their participation in organizing the failed coup d'etat of Shahnawaz-Golbuddin. Nevertheless, it is obvious that special operations by Pakistan's intelligence organization, the ISI, to overthrow the government of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] through Shahnawaz-Golbuddin, could not have happened in the absence of the CIA, which directly supervises Pakistan's Afghan policies.

A look at the background of the incident shows clearly that the United States, as the main bastion of the opposition groups of the RA during the past year, has employed many tactics in order to ensure victories by the opposition through military means. The formation of the interim government by the Alliance of Seven, extensive military attacks on Jalalabad and other cities, and, finally, the preparation of a military conspiracy against the state from the inside constitute the full circle of this campaign to defeat Kabul in the military field.

At the same time, all these measures were taken with expressions of hope by U.S. politicians for a solution to the Afghanistan issue through political means. Experts note that the United States, which in [placename indistinct] and Malta, spoke of the need for reconciliation in Afghanistan, conveyed in a Moscow meeting that it is ready to accept the reality of a political solution for our country. Why did it not want to prevent the measures taken by the ISI in organizing a coup d'etat attempt by Shahnawaz-Golbuddin? It seems that it has regulated its Afghan policy during the past months along two lines:

first, in political statements expressing approval for a political solution of the Afghanistan issue; and, second, in allowing the military circles of Pakistan, who are engaged in organizing anti-Afghan activities in that country, to put into practice the project of destroying the RA from the inside by cooperating with Golbuddin Hekmatyar in order to continue the war.

It has been known for a long time that the United States has supported the policy of continuing the war in Afghanistan and of giving more opportunities to the opposition. The insistence by U.S. authorities on continuing military assistance to the opposition, while at the same time giving their support for a political solution—which is mainly devoted to hoodwinking world public opinion—reveals Washington's true nature toward our country.

The United States expected two things from the Shahnawaz-Golbuddin coup d'etat, which was organized by Pakistan's military intelligence: That this action would damage the prestige of the national reconciliation policy of the RA—which enjoys the increasing support of the people, opposition groups inside and outside the country, and refugees; and that this would also weaken Kabul in the field of military confrontation.

The Afghan people ask why the United States and its regional friends are obstinately against the national reconciliation policy, which is based on national understanding and the creation of a broad coalition sovereignty? Of course, the reason for this stance is that the United States still has not stopped its ambitious strategy based on creating instablity in this region, especially against a number of Afghanistan's neighbors.

Washington appears before Afghans with two faces: On one hand, the establishment of peace, and, on other, the continuation of military assistance to the opposition and the encouragement of Pakistan's intelligence and extremist groups for further war against the RA.

People expect that if the United States really wants a political solution to the Afghanistan issue it should show its loyalty to this claim. The U.S. insistence on the continuation of war, and the efforts by the responsible authories of the United States and the CIA to use any means to make the political-military situation in Afghanistan critical, is not only against the will and desire of the people of our country, but is contrary to the public opinion, which is in favor of ending the bloodshed in Afghanistan.

Afghans have no other path to end war but reconciliation and understanding. The only road which will end in peace in our suffering country is the policy of reconciliation and a political solution. In this matter, not only Afghans, but their neighbors and the superpowers, such as the United States, which is one of the guarantors of the Geneva accords, have a heavy responsibility.

Resorting to a coup d'etat or similar actions will only further darken the sun of a peaceful solution to the Afghanistan issue and create difficulties on the path of the struggle of the people of Afghanistan to end the war.

Now that a concluding seal has been stamped on a dangerous and disastrous conspiracy, the expectations of the public of our country, of all the world's peoples and countries, especially the United States, is to help Afghans end the painful bloodshed in their country and to establish peace.

Those who still have not refrained from opposing the RA should know that the RA will not bow to presure and conspiracy, and has the resolve to defend the interests of peace and the homeland against conspirators and warmongering extremist forces. The path to peace in our country is understanding and national unity among Afghans.

Mujahidin Leader Urges Communists To Surrender

LD1103155290 Tehran IRNA in English 1436 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] Islamabad, March 11, IRNA—An Afghan mujahidin leader today called on members of the rival Communist factions 'Khalq' and 'Parcham' to lay down their arms and surrender to the 7-party coalition.

In his communique, 'Abdul Rasul Sayyaf the so-called premier of the Pashto speaking alliance, said mujahidin commanders have been ordered to secure peace in the liberated areas, and provide for the safety and well-being of the local inhabitants.

Following last Tuesday's abortive coup against the Marxist regime of Najibullah, the mujahidin have mobilised their forces, and are trying to cash in on the turmoil in Kabul.

An uneasy calm prevails in the Afghan capital after days of clashes among the Armed Forces, with the whereabouts of coup leader Shahnawaz Tanay still unknown.

Meanwhile, Qazi Husayn Ahmad, leader of the Jamiyat-e Islami of Pakistan said today that the recent rebellion in the Armed Forces of Afghanistan has proved that Najib cannot continue to prolong his precarious rule. He said the Soviet Union will suffer as a result of its support for Najib.

The qazi commented that the government and people of Pakistan must cooperate with the mujahidin for the liberation of Afghanistan and Indian-controlled Kashmir.

The Jamiyat-e Islami is a member of the Islamic Republic alliance, a coalition of opposition parties in Pakistan.

Najibullah Promotes Five Officers to General

LD1103170290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] On the basis of separate decrees issued by the esteemed Najibullah, the president of Afghanistan, the following lieutenant generals were promoted to the rank of general for appreciation of their outstanding and valuable servies in foiling the Shahnawaz-Golbuddin failed coup d' etat:

Lieutanant General Muhammad Rafi', son of Muhammad Sherin;
Lieutanant General Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, son of Alam Khan;
Lieutanant General Gholam Faruq Ya'qubi, son of Khan Muhammad;
Lieutanant General Muhammad 'Asef Delawar, son of Delawar;
Lieutanant General Muhammad Nabi 'Azimi, son of Gholam Haydar.

According to another report, in view of a decree issued by the esteemed Najibullah, the medal of the April revolution has been approved to be presented to Lt. Gen. (Abdorra'uf Begi), son of Gholam Rasul, who showed worthiness in foiling the Shahnawaz-Golbuddin failed coup d'etat.

Decorates 2 More Officers

LD1103215290 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] According a decree issued by esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, the title of Hero of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Golden Star medal have been approved for martyred 2d Lt. Fazel Haq, son of Mer Khatam, who displayed worthiness and heroism in foiling the Shahnawaz-Golbuddin failed coup d'etat. He was killed in carrying out this major patriotic task.

According to a report, on the basis of a separate decree issued by esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, the title of Hero of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Golden Star medal, as well as the rank of brigadier general, have been approved for Colonel Baba Jan, son of Qalandar, in appreciation of his worthy services in foiling the Shahnawaz-Golbuddin failed coup d'etat.

PDPA Politburo Issues Coup Statement 11 Mar

LD1103225190 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Statement by the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee Political Bureau addressed to all primary party committees and organizations, and all fighting members of the PDPA, military and civilian]

[Text] Over 3 years have elapsed since the declaration of the national reconciliation policy as a policy for saving the people of Afghanistan from war, bloodshed, fratricide, and destruction. Within this period, the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] managed to take important steps in all spheres of the sociopolitical and cultural life of our society. The national reconciliation policy has opened its way to the hearts of millions of war-stricken compatriots and bandaged the wounds of thousands of bereaved families in our country. This policy, however, has its enemies too. The fundamentalist extremists perceive elimination in the achievement of this humane and Islamic policy. From the very beginning of this policy's declaration, the people of Afghanistan's enemies began to try to neutralize and discredit this policy. Long ago the Republic of Afghanistan's [RA] security organs discovered the evil designs of Gulbuddin, who intended to carry out a coup d'etat against the sovereignty of the RA, and the security forces inflicted a number of blows on its active network.

Shahnawaz and his henchmen, whose collaboration with Afghanistan's enemies has now been revealed, tried in the past to distort facts and explain this as an inner party episode, and thus placed a fifth column of Pakistani militarists inside the PDPA and Armed Forces [words indistinct]. The PDPA Politburo Central Committee was aware during this period that Golbuddin's agents inside the party and Armed Forces were preparing themselves not only to carry out an antigovernment conspiracy, but were also forging ahead with an organized move to defame the party leadership and national reconciliation policy under the guise of red slogans—the so-called revolutionary slogans. Their futile effort was decisively foiled and neutralized as a result of the party's awareness and the vigilance of the people and Armed Forces of the RA. Shahnawaz no longer has any link with the PDPA, and has fled with a number of his traitor henchmen to the country from which he received the order to mount a coup d'etat, that is, Pakistan. A number of Shahnawaz's criminal accomplices, who participated in the plot, were either crushed or captured.

Let Shahnawaz's cowardly actions—such as abandoning the party membership card, abandoning military uniform, fleeing and seeking shelter from our homeland's enemies—become a subject for ridicule and hatred from the overwhelming majority of the Afghan nation.

The defeat of Shahnawaz-Golbuddin's henchmen is evidence of the defeat of other extremists; a decisive defeat of extremism and the opening up of new horizons concerning a political solution for our country's problems.

The neutralization of the party conspiracy inside the party plotted by Gulbuddin's agents, demonstrates the firm unity, awareness, and political integrity of the PDPA, and the people's support for its policy.

Dear compatriots: As a result of the criminal actions by the henchmen of Golbuddin-Shahnawaz, regrettably a number of our dear compatriots were either killed, injured, or disabled; some houses, shops, and government installations were destroyed, and our compatriots' painful hearts were further wounded.

The PDPA Central Committee Political Bureau extends its profound condolence to the survivors of this tragic event and calls on all party committees and government organs to extend, as usual, their humanitarian assistance to the victims of the failed coup d'etat and to assess the losses.

The Central Committee Politburo expresses its appreciation to all fighting members of the party, all personnel from the heroic Armed Forces of the RA who, with firmness and devotion, took part in foiling the antigovernment conspiracy; and it also appreciates the actions of those of ground and airforce personnel who, realizing their mistakes, refused to obey the conspirators' order.

We express appreciation for the joint efforts and solidarity of all our political allies in foiling this conspiracy and once again we express our readiness for serious work to create even further broad grounds for a unity of action of all pro-peace and reconstruction forces.

The Central Committee Politburo expresses its pleasure and appreciation to the members of PDPA social organizations, in particular the alert youths of the homeland.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo will continue the process of democratization in inner-party life and will realize changes in the charter and action program of the PDPA. The PDPA Central Committee Politburo will approve these changes and amendments in the highest decision-making organs of the party—the party congress.

At this sensitive moment in the second year of the independent defense of the RA when our courageous people have successfully put another formidable test behind them, the Central Committee asks all primary party committees and fighting members of the PDPA to maintain political vigilance and to prevent every provocative and adventurist action and not to provide any chance for the enemy conspiracy inside the party. All party successes including overpowering the plotters stem from party unity and discipline.

Defend party unity and discipline as your honor and pride. Explain to the people the nature of the failed conspiracy by the extremists and its links with Pakistani militarists and Saudi Wahhabis as an action against the interests of our country and against the interests of the policy of national reconciliation. Do not allow anyone to paint this conspiracy as factionalism, and thus by utilizing the present event damage party unity. The treacherous Shahnawaz and his collaborators do not belong to any of the previous factions of the party. They are only the agents of fundamentalist extremists who penetrated the party.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo believes that now by foiling the Golbuddin-Shahnawaz conspiracy, as a matter of course the road to powering the fundamentalism which is contrary to national understanding and new political thinking has been opened.

Take this opportunity to struggle further for the realization of the policy of national reconciliation. In realization this humane policy take the initiative and act with independent determination.

Assist the fighting members of the PDPA and the Armed Forces in the party. Enhance the level of combat preparedness.

Ready all party members [word indistinct] for any probable conspiracy by the extremist groups in the localities.

The PDPA once again calls on national political and spiritual forces who are struggling for nationwide peace in the country to struggle against the imposed war with mutual understanding and prepare the ground for a peaceful life for our compatriots. In utilizing the existing possibilities the PDPA emphasizes that only the policy of national reconciliation and understanding between the formations stationed in Peshawar and Iran, as well as opposition commanders inside the country, national and cultural figures inside and outside the country who support peace, the PDPA and its political allies and other peace-seeking sociopolitical organizations, can end the long-lasting war.

Proud members of the PDPA: Utilize all possibilities and channels to create a sound atmosphere of understanding for securing nationwide peace. Treat people's wounds who suffered from the failed coup d'etat.

Persian Daily Interviews Mujahidin's Rabbani

LD1103211290 Tehran IRNA in English 1648 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Tehran, March 11, IRNA—[passage omitted] In an interview with mujahidin leader Burhanuddin Rabbani who is based in Peshawar, Pakistan, RESALAT has quoted him as saying that the coup was engineered with the idea of ousting the Najibullah regime.

He said both factions of the ruling Marxist regime—Khalq and Parcham—have oppressed the people of Afghanistan and that neither of them are approved by the Afghans.

Rabbani who leads the Jamiyat-e Eslami, said the Afghans could not justify a cooperation between Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, the Islamic Party and ex-defence minister Shahnawaz Tanay who led the aborted coup.

He said sporadic encounters continue between remaining forces of the coup and Najibullah's forces, and observed that some strongholds are still held by the rebels in Afghanistan.

In his opinion, said Rabbani, collaboration between Hikmatyar and Shahnawaz Tanay who is an avowed communist cannot be justified, and noted tha teaming up with the ex-defence minister would be against the principles of the Islamic revolution in Afghanistan.

Najibullah Reportedly Declined Soviet Help

AU1103202890 Paris AFP in English 1951 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Islamabad, March 11 (AFP)—Afghan President Najibullah said Sunday that he had declined an offer of immediate help from the Soviet Union to crush Tuesday's coup attempt against his government by sacked defence minister General Shahnawaz Tanay.

In a speech broadcast by Radio Kabul, monitored here, Mr. Najibullah said he did not want to hide the facts from the Afghan nation. "My colleagues from the Soviet Union asked me by telephone in what way they could help me," he said. "I thanked them and told them to be ready in case Pakistan or any other enemy attacked. Then I will need your help," he said. "I also told them that if they sent forces now to help me, others would say the Soviet Union had saved me." [passage omitted]

Also Sunday, a government spokesman said Afghan authorities had reopened the country's largest airbase after repairing bomb damage sustained during the coup attempt. Bagram Airbase, 40 miles (65 kilometers) north of here, was blasted by loyalist aircraft to stop rebel-piloted air force planes from using it to bomb the presidential palace. The base has been largely repaired and is usable again, spokesman Humayun Mokammel said.

The government has yet to announce military casualties in the coup attempt, but has said 95 civilians died and almost 200 were injured.

Tanay Issues News Statement on Coup, Najibullah

BK1203074590 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 12 Mar 90 p 10

[Text] Peshawar—The Afghan rebel leader and former Afghan Defence Minister, Mr. Shahnawaz Tanay has said that Dr. Najib is deceiving the Afghan nation through his national reconciliation policy to prolong his rule in Afghanistan.

In a lengthy press statement, written in Pashto and circulated to the press by the Peshawar-based AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY, Gen. Tanay levelled serious allegations against Dr. Najib and said that his government existed at the mercy of foreign forces.

Giving background for arranging a coup against the Najib Government, Shahnawaz Tanay states, "after the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan the aspirations of the Muslim nation of Afghanistan for ending the war, cessation of bloodshed, restoration of peace and formation of an Islamic government did not materialize. [no closing quotation mark as published]

He said that Najib was held responsible for the continuation of war and bloodshed in Afghanistan, who for the sake of power resorted to treason and betrayal, taking pity on nobody and made the whole nation flounder in streams of blood. He even feels no qualms about sacrificing his comrades at the altar of his pursuit for power.

The patriotic military of Afghanistan wants to put an end to the bloodshed and prevent the way of governments imposed by aliens on our people.

He said, the Afghan military wanted that the Afghan nation be given an opportunity to opt for a government of their own choice, and Najib very slyly made hue and cry about peace and national reconciliation, but in reality he burned the whole nation in the flames of war which he aged [as published] for his selfish ulterior motives. He would never abdicate in favour of peace and tranquillity and would prefer to see the whole nation shed its blood as long as he remains in power, he added. He further said that Najib had imprisoned a large number of military officers for they really made efforts to put a quick end to the war. They made these efforts as they did not want to get their hands further stained with the blood of their own countrymen. He is not the friend of anyone. He is a swindler. He does not trust anyone. The war would not finish unless Najib is removed. The Afghan military is determined to overthrow him.

In his message Mr. Tanay said that the military intended to form interim administration after consultation with the Mujahidin, and then to hold elections in 6 months and transfer power to an elected government.

The military officers and personnel now should point their guns towards those who did not desist from murdering their own people. We saw it for ourselves that how Najib mercilessly bombed the Kabul city and murdered thousands of people and demolished dozens of houses through artillery shellings, he added.

He said that for Najib whoever fights against the nation under his command is a loyal revolutionary and fervant patriot of the country, in his view, anybody who wants peace, does not fight against the nation, and favours an elected government of the people is a rebel, extremist and treacherous. He said that it is surprising that yesterday he called us revolutionarist and today he is calling us extremists. It is fact that Najib's regime and power is clashing with the interests of our people. But still he seeks power through the bloodshed of innocent people. He said Najib must know that through propaganda he could not decieve anyone. We would continue to fight until we overthrow him.

It is necessary that all military units should continue their resistance with the help of the mujahidin and our military would be at the service of the nation and would never be at the disposal of country-sellers. I assure the Afghan nation that the life span of Najib is very short and will soon meet his end, he added. I want to make it clear that our uprising is not for attaining political power. We had very sensitive state posts but we sacrificed them for the sake of our nation get rid from the claws of foreign agent. [sentence as published] We will continue to live like the servants of our nation from now on, he concluded.

BAKHTAR Views Pakistan Involvement in Coup

LD1203091690 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0524 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] Kabul, March 11 (BAKHTAR)—In relation to the Shahnawaz-Golbuddin abortive coup d'etat (March 6, 1990) a BAKHTAR political observer writes.

The Shahnawaz-Golbuddin coup d'etat exactly took place when one year elapses from the unsuccessful attack of the opposition, with direct participation of the Pakistani army, on Jalalabad in March 1989.

The enemies which received a jaw-breaking blow by the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) in Jalalabad, were instantly defeated in the early hours of their revolt against the people's sovereignty in Kabul and shamefully defeated on the early hours of the coup d'etat.

Withou doubt, the Shahnawaz-Golbuddin coup d'etat was engineered by the Pakistan Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI) headed by Shahnawaz against the national interest, independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of our country.

The iron will of the sons of Afghanistan foiled this plot and the plotters failed to resist for 24 hours and Tanay was forced to escape to Peshawar. A number of Tanay's close associates were arrested.

With the defeat of the plotters the Pakistani circles should have been convinced that the state of the RA which relies on the Afghans is more powerful than they guess.

It must be said here that Gulbuddin in the early hours of the Tanay coup d'etat in a press conference in Peshawar had said that he had ordered his commanders to support Shanawaz.

The Daily INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE in relation to the Golbuddin-Tanay collaboration in the coup d'etat says that it does not reject manipulation of the Pakistani ISI in the affair. It has added that the coup was the outcome of the ISI, Golbuddin and Tanay tripartite alliance.

Ahmad Rashid, correspondent of the daily INDEPENDENT has said that General Aslam Beig, chief of general staff of the Pakistani Armed Forces and Rahman Gol, chairman of the ISI have demanded heads of the so-called extremists government to organise a revolutionary council for the continuation of war in the RA.

These facts show that Golbuddin-Shahnawaz and their associates for the pleasure of ISI commit national crimes against Afghanistan.

Also, Golbuddin had earlier disclosed that he was intending to launch a military coup d'etat against the RA. The arrest of 117 officers by the state of the RA on December 3, 1989 clearly proves anti-Afghan plots launched by the ISI and Golbuddin in the RA. The trials of the accused proved that the ISI intended that with the assistance of Golbuddin and without keeping in view independence and territorial integrity of the RA to convert Afghanistan, under the pretext of a confederation, into the fifth province of Pakistan.

The Afghan enemies will not succeed in their satanic plans against the RA and the extremists are doomed to failure.

Najibullah Sends Message to Former Afghan King

NC1203120390 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1100 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, has sent a message to former Afghan King Zahir Shah, who lives in exile in Italy. The government spokesman in Kabul reported that the message refers to the need for new efforts to find ways for political normalization in Afghanistan. In his message, he emphasizes Kabul's support for the national reconciliation policy.

India

Singh on Improving Relations With Neighbors

BK1003165890 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] India has forcefully told Pakistan that there would be no compromise on our unity and integrity. Interviewed by Doordarshan [television] on the completion of 100 days of his government, the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, expressed the hope that the recent meeting of all national political parties and the visit of an all-party delegation to Srinagar would be helpful in solving the Kashmir problem. He expressed unhappiness over the attitude of Pakistan toward solving bilateral issues. He said: We are trying to improve relations with all our neighbors. The Indian Peacekeeping Force will be withdrawn from Sri Lanka this month, and after that a strong ground will be prepared to improve relations with that country. There has been a definite improvement in our relations with Bangladesh.

Talking about the burning issues facing his government, Mr. Singh said Kashmir, Punjab, and Rama Janmabhoomi [Hindu-Muslim dispute over shrine] disputes are national issues and need to be tackled on a nonparty basis. He said the government is making a sincere effort to tackle these problems by adopting a national and all-party approach. The prime minister said during the last few months there has been an openness in the government's working, and they have succeeded in creating trust among the people. Mr. V.P. Singh summed up the 100 days of the government functioning:

[Begin Singh recording] (?After) a hundred days in office, I would say that there has been a sincere effort to fulfill the promises we made, the aspirations people have. It has been our effort to retain their trust, and I think it has been reflected by the recent elections in the states. But

despite its some shortcomings or mistakes, overall the people do endorse the present government. [end recording]

Pakistani Reaction 'Disappointing'

BK1103001690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1807 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] New Delhi, March 10 (AFP)—Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh said Saturday [10 March] that his government's first 100 days in office had seen improved relations with the country's smaller neighbours but said Pakistan's reaction had been disappointing.

Speaking on national television, Mr. V.P. Singh—who took office in December saying he wanted to get rid of India's "regional bully" image—singled out Nepal and Sri Lanka as examples. Indian troops were scheduled to complete their pullout from Sri Lanka by the end of the month, he said, and there was a "distinct improvement" in relations with Nepal, suffering severe economic hardship after a year-long Indian economic blockade. "At least some doubts and fears have been removed" and a foundation laid which could further improve bilateral relations, he said in reference to talks underway to end the blockade.

On Pakistan, with which India has fought three wars since independence, Mr. Singh said he wanted good relations, but Islamabad's recent attitude had been "disappointing"—an apparent reference to Pakistan's verbal support for Kashmiri militants agitating violently for freedom from Indian rule. He said he had told Pakistan, which has vocally supported the Kashmiri Muslim call but denied Indian allegations of material support, that New Delhi would not compromise the country's integrity over Kashmir.

1,600 Sri Lankan Tamil Refugees Arrive in Orissa

BK1003092490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] About 1,600 Sri Lankan Tamil refugees are reported to have arrived in Orissa this morning by two ships chartered by the Navy to ferry the PKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] soldiers. The refugees are to be temporarily accommodated in the state. Earlier, they were not allowed to disembark at Madras. Two former union ministers, Mr. Chidambaram and Mr. Arunchalam of Congress-I, criticized the central and state governments for what they called denying of refuge in Tamil Nadu to fleeing Tamils from Sri Lanka.

'Tamil Militants' Barred

BK1103002890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1702 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] Madras, India, March 10 (AFP)—The chief minister of the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu said Saturday [10 March] his administration would from now on bar Sri Lankan Tamil militants from entering the state. In his first public comments after the Tamil Nadu authorities Wednesday [7 March] turned away two shiploads of 1,600 people reported to be refugees from Sri Lanka, Chief Minister Muthuvel Karunanidhi said: "Except for real refugees the government will not allow any militant groups in." He said he had taken his stand because the militants, with their bloody internecine quarrels, would pose a law and order problem. There would be no exception to the rule, whether the militants were from the powerful Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) or the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), which is ruling Sri Lanka's mainly Tamil Northeastern Province, he said.

At least 3,000 panicky refugees have flooded into the state in the past few months, fearing for their lives once the Indian troop withdrawal from the island is completed March 31. None have been turned back, and Mr. Karunanidhi stressed that his government's attitude to genuine Tamil Sri Lankan refugees would remain unchanged.

He said his government had turned away the two ships, the Harshawardhana and the Tipu Sultan chartered by the Indian Navy to carry troops, on prior information that the passengers on both vessels were mostly from "militant groups." Sources here said the Indian Peacekeeping Force in Sri Lanka had not sought clearance from the Tamil Nadu government, or from the central government, before sending the two ships to Tamil Nadu. Earlier Madras reports had said the two ships had been sent to unknown destinations, but the government of eastern coastal Orissa State said the following day that it was arranging to accommodate the refugees there.

Orissa Chief Minister Biju Patnaik said his government in consultation with New Delhi had already set up a makeshift tent camp at Paradip port to receive some 600 Sri Lankan boat people.

Mr. Karunanidhi said here that he had taken the decision to disallow the ships to approach his state after consulting Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh soon after he came to know their passengers were mostly from militant groups, which he did not identify. His government would not want militants to set up camps or bring arms into the Tamil-dominated Tamil Nadu State separated from Sri Lanka by the narrow Palk Straits, said Mr. Karunanidhi, who has held talks here with the main Tamil militant groups to peacefully resolve the ethnic problem at New Delhi's request.

An Indian Foreign Office spokesman said here Friday that New Delhi had decided to take some Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka in consultation with Colombo, amid widespread fears of violence flaring up in the island after the Indian withdrawal.

Kashmir Governor Details Measures Against Unrest

BK1003072090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0650 GMT 10 Mar 90

[By Pratap Chakravarty]

[Text] Srinagar, India, March 10 (AFP)—Calling Kashmiris "pigeons in the cage of terrorism," Governor Jag Mohan said here late Friday [9 March] he was prepared to take firm measures to end a bloody Muslim separatist campaign and lead the state towards elections. The administration will initiate measures of firmness and fairness to defuse the situation in Kashmir, where the civil administration has collapsed in the face of a Muslim militant-led campaign for independence from India, Mr. Jag Mohan said in an interview.

"If I do not take harsh measures, Kashmir would go," he said as army marksmen and commandos patrolled his fortress-like official home in Srinagar, the hub of the campaign which has turned into a popular uprising. "We have to assert vigorously the authority of the state and create an impression in the public that no matter what the cost is, the subversives and their collaborators would be firmly dealt with and eliminated," he said.

Mr. Jag Mohan, perhaps India's most controversial bureaucrat, was speaking a few hours after a multiparty delegation from New Delhi was given a hostile reception by the townspeople, who say political leaders had triggered the present unrest through years of misgovernance and corruption in Kashmir.

"I have come to Kashmir to heal the wounds and I do not want to be forced to take harsh measures.... I want to bring Kashmir back to normal, and if I have to fight (these political) interests I will," Mr. Jag Mohan said.

New Delhi posted Mr. Jag Mohan here as governor on January 19 after the state administration caved in. He immediately sacked the Kashmir legislature ordering governor's rule, a measure criticized by former state political rulers.

"They (the people) are frightened pigeons in the cage of terrorism and my job is to break its bars and end the cult of guns with firmness," he said.

Eleven of some 42 Kashmiri militant organizations in the valley are united under the umbrella of the Tehrik-i-Hurriyat-i-Kashmir or Movement for the Liberation of Kashmir. The dominant Kashmir Liberation Front is operating independently in the region.

Mr. Jag Mohan said he dissolved the legislature to give people a fair chance to elect their government, adding that previous polls were a sham because of large-scale rigging by the erstwhile ruling combine of the regional National Conference and ex-Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress I party. "They can have independence through free polls now," he said, referring to a special constitutional clause that grants Kashmir autonomy in all fields except defence and finance. The Muslim campaigners however want total withdrawal of Indian control of Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state.

Srinagar and 27 towns of the Kashmir Valley have been intermittently under a marathon curfew for the past three months, and about 60,000 soldiers, paramilitary troopers and police have battled to maintain order in the region which has been hit by food, fuel and medicine shortages.

Mr. Jag Mohan revealed a package of measures to bring the scenic valley back to normalcy and said the local population must realize that India would eliminate subversives to save Kashmir at all costs. New Delhi is willing to introduce economic measures such as recruiting some 10,000 unemployed men into paramilitary forces and schools, recasting development projects and listening to the complaints of Kashmiris who have suffered misrule of the region for decades, he said.

"We have by now restored the police intelligence systems, conducted massive raids and captured 80 to 100 top militants, guns and bombs, and we are extending our control on the situation," Mr. Jag Mohan said as loudspeakers from mosques shouted pro-independence slogans. "We are eliminating terrorism, not wholly but effectively," he said, adding that the situation in Srinagar, the state's summer capital, was still not under control.

Indian radio and television stations, post offices, bars, beauty parlors and video shops have shut in Srinagar, where the militants have ordered residents not to read newspapers printed in India.

"I am dealing with a very critical situation," he said, adding that militants had put a price on his head because of his policies.

Party Leaders Issue Joint Statement on Kashmir

BK1003162290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] Leaders of major political parties have recommended to the center that a cabinet minister be appointed to look after Jammu and Kashmir affairs. The leaders, who met in New Delhi this evening at the initiative of the prime minister, also wanted a multiparty advisory committee to be set up to assist the cabinet minister. The committee will examine ways and means to revive political activity and mobilize people to fight against secessionist forces. It will also work out a mechanism at the state level to look into the problems and grievances of the people. The committee will include representatives of the ruling National Front, Congress-I, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], CPI [Communist Party of India], CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], and the National Conference.

Announcing these recommendations, which came at the end of the two-hour-long meeting between the political

parties, an official spokesman said that the leaders discussed the situation in the valley, of which they had a first-hand account during their visit to Srinagar on Thursday [8 March].

Besides the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, the ruling front was represented by the deputy prime minister, Mr. Devi Lal; the home minister, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed; railway minister, Mr. George Fernandes; law minister, Mr. Dinesh Goswami; and information and broadcasting minister, Mr. P. Upendra. The leader of the opposition, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi; BJP leaders Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee and Mr. L.K. Advani; former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Farooq Abdullah; Mr. Indrajit Gupta, CPI; and Mr. Somnath Chatterji, CPI-M, were among those who attended the meeting.

In a joint statement, the leaders made it clear that the identity of Jammu and Kashmir which has been maintained within the Constitution will continue to be there. The legitimate aspirations of the people of the state will have full expression. Firmly declaring that no sinister designs against the unity and territorial integrity of the country will be allowed to succeed, the leaders appealed to misguided sections in the Kashmir valley to give up violence. They pointed out that the Indian Constitution provides abundant opportunities for redressal of their grievances through peaceful means. Saying that subversion against the rule of law will not be allowed at any cost, the leaders called for revival of political activity in Jammu and Kashmir.

In Jammu and Kashmir, the security forces have arrested 14 Kashmiri militants belonging to an underground organization during the last two days. An official spokesman told newsmen in Jammu today that these arrests followed clues provided by a top militant nabbed recently. The security forces secured the release of five state police personnel waylaid by miscreants in a downtown area of Srinagar city last night. Meanwhile, the situation remained peaceful throughout the Kashmir valley. The curfew was relaxed for five hours in Srinagar city from 0500 this morning. Curfew relaxation of four to seven hours was given in other curfew-bound towns of the valley.

6,000 Tamil Nadu Congress-I Supporters Arrested

BK1003005490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1849 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Text] New Delhi, March 9 (AFP)—Some 6,000 supporters of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) party were arrested across southern Tamil Nadu State Friday [9 March], the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported. K. Ramamurthy, president of the Tamil Nadu chapter of the Congress (I), was among those taken into custody in connection with a "stop the rail traffic" campaign called by the party for Saturday, PTI said.

The campaign was to re-name the railway station at Maraimalai Nagar on the suburb of Madras, Tamil Nadu's capital, after the late Kamaraj Nadar, the news agency said. Mr. Nadar, who was from Tamil Nadu, was a former Congress (I) president and state chief minister.

Tamil Nadu is now ruled by Tamils' regional Dravid Munnetra Kazhagam, an ally of Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh's multi-party National Front government.

PTI did not report any serious violence.

2,000 'Volunteers' Arrested

BK1003091090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] In Tamil Nadu, over 2,000 Congress-I volunteers, including 25 MLA's [members of legislative assembly] and MP's [members of parliament] were arrested when they attempted to picket at 40 different places as part of their rail roko [blockade] agitation this morning. They were demanding to rename Maraimalai Nagar railway station near Madras after the former chief minister, K. Kamraj.

According to the director general of police, there was no report of any major untoward incident from anywhere in the state. There was no disruption of train services except some delays of five to 45 minutes in the arrival of some trains. Elaborate security arrangements have been made to prevent any untoward incident.

Iran

Mohtashemi Opposes Release of Western Hostages

NC1003184590 Paris AFP in English 1822 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, March 10 (AFP)—Iran's hardline former Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi said in an editorial published here Saturday that he opposed the release of Western hostages held in Lebanon as it would ease pressures on their countries.

"The Islamic Republic cannot and should not impose its policy on other Muslim countries, but freeing the hostages is like breaking the chains holding the blood-thirsty wolves," he said in the daily KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in a reference to the Western world.

His comments seemed to contradict statements on Wednesday by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani that the case of the 17 hostages was moving towards a solution.

A senior official of the Lebanon-based, Iranian-backed Hizballah movement, Husayn Musavi, had also voiced hope for their early release.

But the shadowy Revolutionary Justice Organization Wednesday ruled out the release of two of the U.S. hostages unless Israel freed 150 Lebanese anti-Israeli

guerrillas and 300 Palestinians from the occupied territories as well as a fundamentalist leader, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, who was seized last summer by Israeli troops in south Lebanon.

Saturday's editorial was also the first time that Mr. Mohtashemi, who is thought to have ties to the pro-Iranian hostage-takers in Lebanon, has intervened after press speculation arising here last month about the hostages' possible release.

He called the Western hostages in Lebanon "spies," and said that in Muslim countries "spies face the death penalty."

Analysts said his editorial had the effect of sharply dashing the hopes that had been raised of the hostages' release.

A previous editorial in the radical KAYHAN's English edition led diplomats to believe Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani had got a green light from Iranian hardliners to end the hostage affair.

But Mr. Mohtashemi, a member of parliament for Tehran and a former Iranian ambassador to Syria, said that "if Moslem groups succeed in resisting media and political blackmail from major powers and the United States as in the past", they would win "the hostage cold war".

He said that "the use of force was the only language that the United States and the Zionist regime (Israel) understood," observing that threats of "reprisals from the Islamic resistance forced NATO and Israeli forces" to leave Lebanon. He was referring to West European and U.S. forces deployed in Lebanon in the 1980s and subjected to various terrorist attacks.

"For some weeks, the issue of hostages in Lebanon has once again made headlines in Western and Zionist newspapers," Mr. Mohtashemi wrote. "It's a tactic of the oppression's fight against Islam," he said.

He said that "Iran was never involved in hostage-taking and that Lebanese Muslim forces acted in their own interest", but that "holy war and martyrdom remain the only solution for Muslims to end growing U.S. interference in their countries".

He said that "it all began in Lebanon after the U.S., British and French military involvement which aimed at obscuring the Israeli aggression in that country, and this intervention favoured the taking of hostages". Mr. Mohtashemi was here referring to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in the summer of 1982.

Among the first hostages were four Iranian diplomats who were abducted in July 1982 by Christian militiamen. They were seized at a checkpoint in an area controlled by Christian, U.S., French and Israeli forces, he contended.

Earlier Saturday, KAYHAN said President George Bush had been duped last month when an imposter claimed he was an Iranian government official and that Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani wanted to talk to him.

It said this had heralded a media campaign ahead of an American operation to free the hostages, and mocked the idea that a simple telephone conversation could resolve matters.

Such a U.S. rescue operation would "certainly involve Israel and just as certainly end the so-called crisis with the death of at least the American hostages," the paper warned.

The Western hostages in Lebanon include eight Americans and three Britons.

KAYHAN Views U.S. 'Propaganda' on Hostages

LD1003091890 Tehran IRNA in English 0810 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, Mar. 10, IRNA—An Iranian daily Saturday commented on the recent propaganda of American media on Western hostages in Lebanon and the attempt last month of the White House to contact President Hashemi-Rafsanjani by phone.

"Like all maladies, this one, too, is goal-oriented though President George Bush's telephone diplomacy is about as callow as was the notorious bible, cake and six-shooter scenario sprung by Mr. Robert McFarlane," said KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in its editorial.

Turning to the high expenses of intelligence gathering in the U.S., the daily criticised the low quality of the product.

It added that the hostage propaganda was "a media blitz designed to create activity and certain conditions that at present are non-existent".

Part of the propaganda aimed at re-positioning America with respect to the Iranian market because naturally the U.S. was "anxious but unable to participate", said the daily in reference to the post-war reconstruction in Iran.

"If the tact fails and Mr. Bush's acknowledged lack of 'the vision thing' makes it an excellent possibility, then the world is likely to again witness the dinosaur flexing it's muscles," it added.

It said that Washington wanted a share in the Iranian market and that is why it is looking red-eyed and sullen at the lively competition being waged by Italians, Germans, the Russians and Japanese.

The daily advised the White House to take a lesson from its allies adding that both Reagan and Bush administrations have proved to be "inept" in ideological and cultural perceptions.

The editorial added that the media campaign was also launched to prepare the American public opinion for a

rescue operation in Lebanon involving Israel and certainly "end the so-called crisis with the death of at least the American hostages.

"The Bush administration would then be in a position to re-explain its long sufferings over the hostage issue, the patience two administrations had shown and the necessity, as in Panama and Libya, to stand up for Americans," it said.

The daily stressed "if the U.S. and Israel embark on military adventurism the hostages will fact be a pretext for crippling the Islamic movement".

It added that another goal of the media campaign was to evaluate the reactions shown by the Iranian authorities.

"America is not in a position to accurately judge Iranian thinking" said the daily, adding, "Washington is in the process of assessing what will be the price of a possible transaction."

Also by raising humanitarian aspects of the hostage issue the U.S. wants to exert international pressure on Iran, it said. However, this too is a "particularly wrong-headed approach," it added.

"In this vacuum they are attempting to create media facts and alter reality. The net result will be that 12 years after the victory of the Islamic revolution, Washington will still be out in the cold," concluded the daily.

Yazdi Says U.S. Seeks Ties With Tehran

LD1103215990 Tehran IRNA in English 1642 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, Mar. 11, IRNA—The telephone conversation between U.S. President George Bush and a person who he thought was the Iranian president indicated "Washington's needs and aspires to resume ties with Iran," the judiciary head said Sunday.

"American officials think that such contacts could solve their problems in the Middle East including Lebanon and the Persian Gulf," Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi said at a meeting of high ranking judicial officials here.

Ayatollah Yazdi pointed out that the issue also betrayed American officials' extraordinary haste in establishing contacts with high ranking officials of the Islamic Republic.

"The fact that they have said if it was repeated the U.S. President would still be ready for contact with the Iranian president means that they badly need to re-establish ties with Iran," Ayatollah Yazdi said.

Bush Allegedly Orders Silence on Telephone Call

NC1103064490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] Following the contradictory claims by White House officials in explaining the incident of the telephone conversation between George Bush and a person Bush hoped was the Iranian president, the U.S. President has forbidden all U.S. officials from expressing any views on this subject in an effort to prevent this ambiguous episode from evolving into a political crisis for his presidency.

According to news agencies, the U.S. President has instructed all White House officials and the Washington administration officials to refrain from expressing any opinions or divulging further details on the incident of his telephone conversation with an unidentified person which the White House hoped was the Iranian president.

Majles Deputy Calls on President To Probe 'Hoax'

LD1103182790 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, Mar. 11, IRNA—Mohammad Qomi, Majles deputy from Varamin, today called on President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to probe into the reported telephone call to George Bush by someone posing as the Iranian president, which proved a hoax, according to the White House.

The Majles deputy who was talking at a pre-agenda session of the Islamic Consultative Assembly observed that in his opinion it is unlikely that anyone in Iran might have ventured to try that.

He said elsewhere in his talks that to disregard the Iran-Iraq Treaty of 1975 and the UN Security Council Resolution 598 would be to disregard the ideals set forth by the deceased leader of the Islamic revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeyni.

The Majles deputy called on the Iranian peace negotiators to stick fast to the values of the Islamic revolution and watch for "the plots of the enemies of Islam." He said the Armed Forces of Iran will "give the criminal Saddam his due" if he should be tempted to indulge in his past perpetrations.

Ahmad Khomeyni Opposes Compromise With U.S.

LD1203094390 Tehran IRNA in English 0755 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, March 12, IRNA—Son of the late Imam Khomeyni, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni here Sunday lashed out at the U.S. for making fresh attempts to approach Iran stressing that Tehran will never compromise with Washington.

Speaking in a meeting with commanders and senior officials of the Islamic Republic Police Force the hojjat

ol-eslam said, "the U.S. wil never seee the day when the Islamic Republic of Iran will compromise with Washington."

Ahmad Khomeyni was referring to recent reports on American President George Bush's telephone contact with an unidentified Iranian who claimed to be the Iranian president which later proved to be a hoax.

"The U.S. must elaborate on the issue and disclose the identity of the person who made the call as a mere joke." As for the objective behind the move, he said, "the idea is to create the assumption among the public that relations between Iran and the U.S. are so close that when a person impostures himself as the Iranian president and calls up the U.S. President he easily talks to that person."

Further on the issue, he blamed those who follow the American brand of Islam and said, "they may want to compromise with the U.S., grasp the power and ruin what has been achieved by the imam and the people, but as it has been defined by the imam, we will not cease our enmity against the U.S."

President Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

First Sermon on 'Soviet Empire'

LD0903224390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1115 GMT 9 Mar 90

[First Friday prayers sermon by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University on 9 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] As to the question about how the hidden imam will gain control of the whole world, this was one of the issues which we always discussed when we were a youthful seminarian, when we first became a student in the religious seminary. We asked how is it possible for a person to come and for all the powers of the world which are armed to the teeth, which are armed with nuclear weapons, with chemical weapons, and perhaps by the time that he appears may be armed with more extraordinary weapons, how is it possible that all these armed forces of the world will surrender to him? Is such a thing possible? To many people it seems strange even to imagine that such a thing is possible. In my view it can be so. We should not regard it as an impossibility.

Even now you see that the greatest powers in the world are beginning to melt by themselves, due to the public opinion of their own people. Even up to two or three years ago who would have imagined that this great empire of the USSR would reach the situation which we are now witnessing? It would have been impossible on the basis of the usual yardsticks which we have. The biggest armed forces of the world, the most powerful security forces of the world, the largest territory in the world, 16 republics [as heard], as well as many satellites from other relatively strong communist countries of the world, a powerful bloc; there one person arises, a president or a chairman of the Presidium, he puts forward new thoughts, the people hear a few words, and the demands of the people reach such a pitch that nobody there can resist them any more; behind the iron curtain, in the most closed society, in a place where there was no propaganda from outside their environment. There, one person perhaps with a few of his friends, spoke new words, these words influence the people to such an extent and create such a demand that no one can resist them any more. That powerful Communist Party—you certainly are not aware of all the complexity which exists in the communist parties of the world, we have had a few examples of them here and we know how strong they are from an organizational point of view. They possess within the party all the means for strengthening their government. What an occurrence this was which took place in the world!

If we imagine that a divine reformer, free from all these prejudices and beyond all the standards which we now possess, if he sets out his reforming thesis to the world and brings it to the ears of the world—at one time we would have said that they would shut him up, but now you see that even if an ordinary person says something trivial in the world two days later the whole world hears of it, if it is worth paying attention to. If someone sets out a thesis today which may contain some truth the whole world will hear of it.

Well, in our traditions we have it that when the lord of the age reappears he will lean against the Ka'bah and when he speaks the whole world will hear him. In the past, such things were regarded as miracles, but now they are not miracles anymore. Meanwhile, from a tradition which I will read to you later, you will see that when he comes he will have a ready base. It is not that a person suddenly appears and raises his voice and everyone hears him. He will speak from a base and I will describe where and what his base is. [passage omitted]

Therefore, it is quite acceptable that in a natural way and without fighting the world may accept the words of the Lord of the Age, and he will be accepted by the world. There is also a tradition that his holiness the Christ, who has so many followers in the world... [changes thought] And there is tradition that Christ will say prayers behind him, and that Christ will not accept government, because rule belongs to the Lord of the Age. [sentence as heard] Of course, in another tradition I saw that first it belongs to the Lord of the Age and then to Christ. When the Prophet predicts the time of the return, he says: I, followed by the Lord of the Age, then Christ. This is how it has been recorded. Now I will not enter the discussion of what will happen then, because it is a lengthy issue and requires a great deal of research. Now, if Christ comes with the hidden imam and if he says prayers behind him, and if the Christians recognize their prophet with the signs which they have, well this will make the matter much easier and will make it much quicker.

Even if we ignore all of these things and say that this is only a tradition and depends on how much we believe in it—now I am making a sociological analysis. I am saying

that a human being, with all the characteristics which the Lord of the Age has, as we believe, a person who up till now has lived one thousand and a few hundred years, who certainly knows all the issues of the world, he is aware, wise, informed, knowledgeable, learned, in full grasp of the issues, he can make the best speeches, he has the best utterance, he can deliver his words to the people.

If such a thing happens and if the majority of the dissatisfied people of the world say that they believe his words, that they are good and correct, what can the governments do with their people then? I am talking about informed people, not ignorant people. The supposition is that the intellects of the people have been perfected and that people's characters are developed. This is something which can take place on the basis of ordinary calculation, not even on the basis of miracles. I believe in miracles. He can make the people submit to him through miracles. Even if we talk about miracles, miracles are performed to satisfy the people. The miracles of the prophets have also always been for the sake of satisfying the people, not for the sake of forcing them. [passage omitted]

Second Friday Prayers Sermon

LD0903155290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1115 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Second Friday prayers sermon by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University on 9 March—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. The first sermon was a bit too long, so I will try to keep the second sermon compact and brief. Among the topics of the day, one is the resolution. You must have heard in the news and reports that apparently the United Nations is initiating a new phase regarding the resolution. For the first time the Security Council is following the affair. It has endorsed the move by the secretary general. And the secretary general has advised the two parties of his plan; he has asked them to respond to his initiative and act upon it.

Well, our Ministry of Foreign Affairs is charged with following up the issue of the resolution—it is so charged by his holiness the imam of ummah, who at that time endorsed the minister of foreign affairs and appointed him to carry out that task. His responsibility in that regard is still valid. So, the Ministry continues to carry out its task.

To summarize the issue, I must say that ever since the Islamic Republic, on instructions from his holiness the imam, accepted the cease-fire and declared that it seriously intends to achieve peace with Iraq, it has never deviated even slightly from that instruction of his holiness the imam. We continue all our plans according to the same policy which his holiness the imam determined; and we believe that it was a timely and correct decision. We have fully cooperated with the United Nations. We have accepted without any prejudice every proposal that has had no negative impact on our rights. And whenever there has been a proposal at variance with our rights we have not accepted it. Indeed, the UN secretary general accepts the fact that the Islamic Republic has been cooperative. He has said this on various occasions. The world has also, more or less, grasped that fact. Of course, the world propaganda power is not in our hands. Every day they resort to some sort of pretext; they present some sort of project to create hue and cry to confuse what is right, to create doubts in minds. But all in all, when we talk with other peoples we see that deep down they agree that the Islamic Republic has not made any move, during this time, which is against the pursuit of peace. That is a positive point in terms of support from world public opinion for our new move.

We do not know what events will take place in this new move. Of course, on the one side the USSR took the initiative and invited the two parties to Moscow; we accepted that move as well. We told the Soviets that we would come over; please give us a plan, in the same way that now the secretary general has given us a plan. They have not yet given us their plan. But the secretary general has given his plan. So far as I can discern by looking at it superficially, there is nothing in the secretary general's new plan that may be against our views. So it can be accepted. Of course, we must be more discerning to see whether there is anything in it that may be against our interests; otherwise, in my view it can provide a suitable ground for continuation of the talks. We do not refute the points it includes. The issue of withdrawal is included, which is what we want. The release of POWs is included, which is our desire. Freedom of shipping in the Persian Gulf is also included—which is what the Iraqis want more than we do. But we are not opposed to it; if there is peace, then Iraq too should benefit from the Persian Gulf. The dredging of the Arvand River is included in it; we agree with dredging, but in a fashion in which the rights of both sides are preserved on the basis of the Algiers accord. Iraq is more in need of dredging, because she wants to revive al-Basrah. We feel no haste about dredging but it is in our own interests as well; because it can lead to Khorramshahr being revived more quickly. Khorramshahr can receive ships both through the Arvand River, the Shatt al-'Arab, and also through another waterway called Bahmanshir. There are two approaches from the Persian Gulf to Khorramshahr. Therefore, the Arvand River issue is not as important to us as it is to Iraq; but in any case it is important.

As to the next stage; once the relevant commission presents its view on who started the war, and once the subsequent issues are clarified, then we are fully prepared for the next stage—to arrive at a comprehensive peace with Iraq, to have accord between the peoples of Iran and Iraq, and to allow the two nations to live together in friendship. Here we have no problems.

Therefore, the points made in the statement—working statement—of the secretary general can provide a ground for cooperation. However, I am not very optimistic that they might want to solve the problem promptly.

I believe that the arrogant powers consider it in their interests for Iran and Iraq to be constantly at war. When Iran was advancing inside Iraq they did not like it. Because they did not want us to win. However, the "no war, no peace" situation is to their advantage. They are in favor of the continuation of the dispute, because in a "no war, no peace" situation there is no security in the region; that is, the countries in the region cannot come together. That means the arrogant powers can maintain their military presence here with the excuse that war might break out anytime and their presence may be needed, and so on.

Due to the dispute, it is easy for them to sell arms to all the countries in the region. It is a very profitable business for them. They also resort to extortion from both sides, saying: We will support you in such and such case, or we will not oppose you, or we will not support your rival, and so on. Therefore, based on this reasoning, the arrogant powers are apparently not in favor of ultimate peace; although, by another reasoning, the Persian Gulf region is so important to the world and so pivotal in world economics that it is like a powder keg and rather dangerous for industrial powers. Therefore, if they think a little more sensibly and deeply, with the knowledge they possess of our military industries, they would possibly be somewhat worried about the Iranian nation, this 55 million strong and revolutionary nation, which is experienced in war, is progressing, and is strengthening its military might. For those reasons one could say that they may be in favour of a settlement of this issue.

In any case, we are prepared to see the resolution, which we have accepted, fully and fairly implemented. We hope that Iraq's argument will be no more harmful to their own people and the people of the world. See what the Iraqi regime is doing by procrastinating. For example, they are holding two or three thousand kilometres [as heard] of our soil, which includes a number of villages and towns like Naft-e Shahr. What could Iraq possibly gain? If she sensibly thinks the matter over, she would realise that she could not hold the occupied part of Iran indefinitely. If she does not hand it back, one day our nation would resort to force and recapture it. [crowd chants]

Therefore, to put off giving back those areas would bring nothing but harm to the people of Iran and Iraq. Every year this is delayed, it costs the two nations billions of dollars. And from a humanitarian viewpoint, so many people are in bondage and so many families are awaiting the return of their children. Also there are so many war refugees; hundreds of thousands of people from both sides are unable to return to their homes because of the conditions prevailing on the borders and the presence of military forces there. The cost of purchasing and manufacturing weapons, maintaining large numbers of troops on the fronts, the delay in the implementation of development programs, and the problems created for the people because of this situation are its negative consequences, in addition to the danger of entanglement, resumption of the war, lack of security in the region and extortion by blasphemous, anti-Islamic and inhuman powers. The Iraqis are responsible for all this, when I say Iraqis, I do not mean the Iraqi people. Iraq should obey the resolution and retreat, but she does not. She makes excuses which no one accepts, and gives reasons which only they understand. Of course we can guess what they are, but there is no need for me to go into it at this point.

In any case, a new move has started. We welcome it and will cooperate. We hope that the Iraqis come to their senses and that the principal warmongers no longer make problems for and bring misery to the people of the region and the two nations.

Another issue included in my Arabic sermon, which I had intended to discuss in detail but cannot do so due to the length of my first sermon, concerns today's global Islamic movement. I believe that currently we are passing through one of the auspicious periods in the history of Islam, under the shadow of the Islamic revolution, under the shadow of the victories of this ummah, under the shadow of crusades, toils, and self-sacrifices of the hezbollahi forces of our country, and as a result of the truly discerning leadership of his eminence the imam of the ummah, unprecedented in the history of Islam—if such a leader exists, we are unaware of his existence. Those and other conditions led to a movement in Iran which became a source of hope to all nations in the world.

Today, all sincere Muslims throughout the world, those forces that are sincere, not those who lack sincerity and have their own interests in mind, and who have not been deafened or blinded by our enemies' propaganda, are looking to Iran—where their hearts lie—and depend on that Islamic movement which has manifested itself and come to fruition here. They seek to benefit from our experiences to establish the rule of Islam in their regions. This is a very auspicious movement, of which you are a witness. You can see it in the way the Afghan people have succeeded in reaching their present juncture; you can see it in Lebanon—where for decades the Muslims lived under the rule of the Maronites and the Phalangists, devoid of any specified identity—where the people hold the upper hand, and even though the existing frictions prevent them from making full use of their forces, the Muslims constitute a powerful force in that region; you can see it in the countries of blasphemy where the Muslims have taken up arms in holy war; you can see it in the way the Kashmiri people are fighting in self-sacrificing spirits so as to realize their rights; you can see it in the Muslim-inhabited regions of the Soviet Union where the Islamic movement has reached a remarkable peak; you can see it in the African countries, such as Tunisia and a number of others, where the waves of the Islamic movement are very strong. In Tunisia and the Sudan, the Muslims have marched up to the threshold of victory. In Egypt—which was once the fortress of the Arab world, today the Islamic movement has reached a promising point. The same is true in other countries such as Pakistan, as you have seen for yourselves.

Of course, it was the people themselves who carried out the movement in their own countries, and of their own initiative, but their inspiration emanated from the Islamic revolution; they have seen the steady path of Islam and its victorious experiences. Evil propagandas, that for decades told them that Islam as an authority has left the orbit of history and that they should no longer consider the rule of Islam, but carry on their everyday lives of going to cemeteries, birthday celebrations, funeral ceremonies, and confining themselves to mosques, has been defeated, and the hope of the rule of Islamic knowledge in the world has been revived. These are all the fruits of your victorious movement.

We do not need to interfere in world affairs; we do not need to be present there. We need to consolidate this position. The world's Muslims understand this; they tell us that as long as that revolution remains strong in Iran—that which is our point of reliance and our source of inspiration—we are willing to sacrifice our interests in our own countries, just to keep this base, so that we may gain our light and inspiration from here. We want to see our path here, this is our torch and guiding path. We do not need to interfere. Our need is to strengthen this position, make it flourish, and turn it into an Islamic role model for the others to see, so that they may choose the path of Islam themselves.

Another issue worth mentioning is Kashmir. The people of Kashmir, the decisive majority of whom are Muslims, have the right to sovereignty, according to a UN agreement with India. In other words, recourse to a referendum has been stipulated in UN agreements; even if it had not been, they would have had that right. Today the idea of democracy is not something that cannot be raised in the world. Public opinion, the people's choice is recognized by all as an acceptable and reliable principle. And there is no doubt that the people of Kashmir want to determine their own destiny as Muslims. That is not a bad claim, not an unjust demand, not asking for too much. The Indians know that. The Indians are governing their own country on that same basis. That was Gandhi's wish as well. It was Nehru's wish. It was the wish of the Indian people. The Indian people freed themselves from British colonialism by their own choice. How can it be now that the response to these people who want the right to choose their own destiny is the dispatch of a military governor, the firing of bullets, and the shedding of the blood of poor and oppressed people?

The history of India is being sullied. The history of India is losing—the outstanding qualities of the people of India are being lost—and it is becoming ugly, taking on an unpleasant aspect. Fortunately, they have recently done something: they sent a group of people to Kashmir so the people's demands could be given attention. I hope this is not a trick and the delegation that went there made a study of the matter and returned, that when they were walking through the streets with their guards the people's cries for freedom and Islam, from every mosque, house, prayer house, and place of worship filled the city. And they saw what the people are like. Let them meet the people's rightful demand. God willing, such a thing will come to pass.

Of course, since we have good relations with India, we hope the issue is resolved in a favorable manner so we can continue our cooperation the same as before, or even better than before.

Another issue is Palestine which, God be praised, with the blessing of the struggles of Muslim Palestinians and the Palestinian Islamic movement... [changes thought] They have endured the most terrible conditions for about two years and have given martyrs and sustained injury and damage every day; every day their houses have been blown up, their children martyred and fired upon; and the hospitals and prisons filled with wounded people and Muslim Palestinian prisoners. During the past two years the Zionists have inflicted the most terrible crimes on the Muslims of the West Bank. And now we see that talk of negotiations has been raised once again. Appearances suggest that in the Israeli Parliament it is being accepted under U.S. pressure that Israel may talk with 'Arafat or with Fatah. It is one of those strange and peculiar things that revolutionary movements which could boast so many proud deeds should now start begging such and such an Israeli person to deign to speak to it. That is all it amounts to. In other words, things have come to this: The United States is putting pressure on Israel, saying talk to the Palestinians, and Israel says, no, I will not talk to them. There is disagreement in the Israeli Cabinet. Some say, let us talk; some say, we must not talk. And they are sitting about waiting for the Israeli prime minister to allow Mr 'Arafat to speak to him. Woe betide you who have so humbled Palestinian holy warriors!

What have you ever gained by talking? What has talking done for you? What have those who have talked to the United States and Israel—Egypt and others—gained other than humiliation? Now, they are after—now all the eyes of the world are turned to Tel Aviv to see whether the Israeli Cabinet will agree to deign to talk with the leaders of the Fatah organization. As to what would come out of such talking, God only knows. For the moment, it is just a matter of whether there will be talks. That is the most humiliating position in the world to be in.

People who have thousands, tens of thousands of brave armed people behind them, whose people have illuminated the streets of occupied Palestine with their struggles; given the forces of support that they have throughout the world; if they wanted to fight, this 55 million strong Iranian nation would walk by their side no matter where they went [crowd chants support]; and the heroic Muslim people of Lebanon are enduring so many difficulties for the sake of the Palestinian issue—those gentlemen are sitting around hoping for talks, not results,

just the hope of talking with Zionist leaders, the terrorists of yesteryear and today's rulers of occupied Palestine; they are sitting around waiting for the United States to smooth the way to talks and meetings for them.

We hope that the intelligent nations and the vigilant Muslims of the world will not allow the struggle to be deflected and the rights of Palestinians ignored to such an extent.

Another strange and extraordinary issue that we heard today, in the reports, was about a new disgrace that has taken place in Washington. In my view, this a strange event. As only a few hours have passed since the report, we are waiting to see what will happen. The text of the report is that the American President tried to talk on the telephone with Iran's president a month ago. After a while, it was made clear that he had been talking to someone who was not Iran's president and that he was someone else, and he [President Bush] failed in his efforts. The report is vague; it was announced a month later, and the announcement was made by the White House. In other words, the Americans themselves announced the report. It was not the case that the report was leaked to a newspaper and then they said it. It is something that we on this side know nothing about, while the other side is issuing a statement. This can be a very interesting issue.

There are a few points we can learn from this issue. Now we expect them to provide more explanation on why they thought of making this telephone call. Who has been the mediator, who has been the person at the other end, and finally, who have they talked to? These are the issues that should be made clear; another is, what did they talk about. However, one of the points that was made clear was that the Americans are very much in need of talking to Iran and, thanks be to God, they are denied this blessing [ne'mat].

The second point is that Iran is so important in today's world, as I said earlier, as the result of all your resistance, God has given you such a lofty position that the greatest power in today's world and the most bullying power on earth is making such efforts to find an opening through telephone lines with your executive official. The third strange point is that the White House is pursuing such a confused policy that such a disgrace can occur there. How is it possible that they were unable to find out who was trying to talk to Mr. Bush, and they made a mistake about the origin of the telephone call? Is it possible for a powerful man in the world with all his intelligence capabilities to talk to someone when he does not know who he is? This is a strange event and we should wait for their explanations and see if another Irangate is taking place in Washington or not, God willing. God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Arabic Friday Prayers Sermon

NC0903202090 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1822 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Friday prayers sermon in Arabic by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University on 9 March—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Praise be to God and prayers on God's Prophet, his family, and his pious companions. God be praised. These days we see the sons of the Islamic nation worldwide moving toward Islam and returning to their divine nature.

Centuries passed while the Muslims forgot their Islamic identity and lost their spirit of Islamic enthusiasm. Under the material onslaught of embellished Western heresies, they believed that the age of the [Islamic] creed's supremacy had passed. Whenever there was an awakening or an uprising by Islamic vanguard forces in the Islamic world, it used to assume non-Islamic characteristics. These could be Eastern, Western, sectarian, nationalist, linguistic, or similar characteristics.

The victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran turned a new leaf in the history of Islam and Muslims. It is an entirely Islamic revolution, drawing all its components from true Islam and rejecting all non-Islamic features. It agrees with Islam in its objectives and purposes and in its national, philosophical, and ideological outlook. All its rulings, laws, slogans, and stands are identical to those of original Islam. It rejects subservience and is not influenced by non-Islamic Western, Eastern, and nationalist ideologies.

In the revolution's first years, many people thought it was impossible for it to succeed, while others were not certain it would succeed. Now, 11 years later, these views have changed. They changed after the revolution surmounted all problems, paved the way for the Islamic movement, struggled successfully against anything obstructing its progress, and confronted the onslaughts of international apostasy.

More importantly, the revolution started to apply Islamic teachings in various political, economic, cultural, and military spheres. Consequently, establishing an Islamic society is now an accepted and recognized matter, and the revolution attracted many people who follow this path. The Islamic uprisings, movements, and demands around the world have been increasing every day, both in countries where Muslims form the vast majority and in societies where Muslim minorities live. The revolution's experiences and the path it has followed and continues to follow have drawn the serious attention of Muslims. There is no doubt that if Muslims direct themselves to God, may he be praised and exalted, with sincerity and without personal and material influences, God will accept them and make them victorious, and they will witness blessings and victory day after day. If

you aid God's cause, He will aid you and plant your feet firmly. [Koranic verse] Peace and God's blessing be upon you.

Majles Continues Deliberations on Budget Bill

NC1203062590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] Deliberations on the 1369 [year beginning 21 March 1990] budget bill continued at the open session of the Majles last night with speeches by some of the deputies.

Our correspondent reports that during the session, which was chaired by Majles Deputy Speaker Mr. Bayat, four deputies spoke either in favor or against the general points in the budget bill and reviewed the contents of the bill in detail.

The report states that the deputies in favor of the bill described the elimination of poverty, the creation of jobs, housing projects, increased foodstuff production during the coming year, and the reduction of the government's loans as the positive points in the 1369 budget bill. The deputies who spoke against the bill pointed to the importance of the problem of unemployment, the increase in the general budget and the decrease in the development budget, the shortages of foreign exchange for industries, their disagreement with investment in nonproductive areas, and the significance of attracting experts, and urges that weak points in the bill be noted.

Karrubi Begins Visit to Khuzestan Province

LD0803164390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Excerpt] The Majles speaker, Mr Karrubi, today inspected the progress in the reconstruction work in Abadan. The Central News Unit's correspondent reports about the Majles speaker's trip to Khuzestan Province. We draw your attention to that report.

[Correspondent] The Majles speaker, Mr. Karrubi, arrived this morning in Ahvaz to pay a visit to Khuzestan Province and participate in commemorative ceremonies for the holy crusade's martyrs of 17 Esfand [8 March]. He was welcomed at the airport by Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi-Jazayeri, the representative of the supreme jurisconsult and Friday prayer leader of Ahvaz; Hojjat ol-Eslam Jami, Friday prayer leader of Abadan and governor general; and other provincial officials. He then arrived in Abadan and paid his respects to the tombs of that city's martyrs, while breaking ground for construction of gathering place for religious purposes [hoseyniyeh] a for that city's martyrs. He then visited various parts of the city and attended a meeting of that province's reconstruction council, thereby coming into close contact with the problems of that province and with the progress in reconstruction work.

It must be added that the Majles speaker is accompanied on this trip by General Shahbazi, head of the joint chiefs of staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army, Majles deputies from Khuzestan, Hojjat ol-Eslam Tavassoli, and a number of other officials. [passage omitted]

Criticizes Pace of Reconstruction

NC0903084290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Interview with Majles Speaker Mehdi Karrubi by unidentified correspondent in Tehran on 8 March—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr. Karrubi, during Your Excellency's visit to Khuzestan Province, you visited the two war-stricken cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr. How was reconstruction progressing in these two cities, and what are your proposals for accelerating reconstruction?

[Karrubi] In the name of God, the Almighty, the Merciful. It was a source of happiness to go to Khuzestan. We met with the families of martyrs in Khorramshahr and Abadan. We also met with 'ulema and clergymen and with the executive officials of the province, and attended a ceremony marking the anniversary of the martyrdom of some of our dear brothers in the Abadan Jihad Council. We were accompanied by a number of provincial representatives. We are very satisfied with this visit, even though it was short. I wanted to visit some other cities, but because of lack of time and the work that we had in Tehran, unfortunately I was unable to visit other cities.

As for your question, I think that reconstruction is entirely too slow and not at all satisfactory in my opinion. It should definitely be accelerated, and it should conform with the people's needs. I went to the mosque today and listened to the people. Frankly speaking, their complaints were just and right. These are the people who have suffered so much and have sacrificed so much, and they are now determined and ready to reconstruct their cities, return to their homes, and develop their areas and city. This, in itself, is one type of struggle and a slap in the face of the enemy.

Naturally, these people should be considered important and given the necessary facilities. This does not only affect Abadan and Khorramshahr. The situation in other cities too—for example, Susangerd and other places that need reconstruction—is unsatisfactory. An extraordinary dynamism should definitely be envisioned for 1369 [year beginning 21 March 1990].

As for my proposals, I think that with the ratification of the Five-Year Plan and the budget that the government has presented for reconstruction, and with the dynamism that the Five-Year Plan will create, I hope that part of the problems will be solved and that the fate of reconstruction will change completely. If this is the case [as heard], then we will be facing an extremely disturbing process which will not conform to needs.

The general outcome of our discussions with the kind and sympathetic people was that the proposal is centralization. In other words, one person should be in charge, and the people who are assigned to do something should be granted authority and facilities. Centralization is the most important element for progress.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much.

Pakistan

Bhutto, Khan Brief Political Leaders on Kashmir

BK1103162690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] The leaders of political parties outside the Parliament were apprised today in Islamabad of the situation in occupied Kashmir. The briefing continued for more than eight hours as Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan briefed the leaders, who presented their viewpoints.

Following the briefing, Ahmad Saeed Awan, minister of state for information and broadcasting, told newsmen in Islamabad this evening that Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in her concluding speech at the briefing assured everyone Pakistan will continue to support the Kashmiri people until they secure their right to self-determination and until the Kashmir issue is resolved.

The prime minister said Pakistan recognizes the Simla Agreement, because it was signed by two democratic governments, and that we are ready for talks with India. She said, however, we reserve the right to raise the issue at the United Nations. Pakistan always has that right and will permit no obstruction of it.

Foreign Minister Khan said the political leaders commended the steps taken by the prime minister for convening such a meeting and for taking them into confidence. They said this is a good practice and it should be maintained. The foreign minister said the political leaders in general have supported and commended the efforts being made to apprise the international fraternity of Pakistan's stand and of the demand for self-determination and for a solution of the Kashmir issue based on relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

Some of these leaders, however, expressed the view there is a need to further intensify these efforts and to make them more effective. Replying to a question, the foreign minister said the government has made wholehearted efforts regarding this, and that it wants to continue them, and, if necessary, they will be further intensified.

Replying to another question, the foreign minister said Pakistan is not against a dialogue with India on the Kashmir issue, and that is very clear from our stand and position. He said what is important is the doors of negotiations should remain open to avoid a lack of understanding and a further increase in tension.

Replying to yet another question, Khan said it is very correct a number of countries have achieved a greater understanding and awareness about the Kashmir issue, and this awareness is further increasing.

The leaders who attended the briefing were Air Marshal Asghar Khan, retired, Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani, Sher Baz Khan Mazari, Fatehyab Ali Khan, Allama Sajid Naqvi, Brigadier Syed Shabbir Ali, retired, Maulana Taher Ali Qaderi, Bizen Bizenjo, Mahmud Khan Achakzai, Dr. Abdul Hai, Malik Ghulam Sarwar Awan, Dr. Asrar Ahmad, Abdul Qadeer Khamosh, Rasul Bux Paleejo, Abid Hasan Manto, Malik Mohammad Qasim, and Latif Afridi.

Spokesman Condemns Indian Force's Kashmir Firing

BK1103154790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman today condemned the brutal killing of 22 people and the injuring of several others in Srinagar last Friday [as heard]. During the incident, the Indian security forces fired without any provocation on people who wanted to offer Friday prayers in mosques. The spokesman said that obstructing people from offering prayers is particularly reprehensible and it constitutes a serious violation of human rights. The spokesman also expressed regret over occupied Kashmir Governor Jagmohan's statement in which he threatened to take more stringent steps against the people.

Foreign Secretary Leaves for Visit to USSR

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[Text] The foreign secretary, Dr. Tanvir Ahmad Khan, left Islamabad for Moscow this morning on a four-day official visit to the Soviet Union. He will hold talks with his Soviet counterpart on matters of bilateral interest.

Before his departure, the foreign secretary said his visit is in line with Pakistan's strong desire to establish good relations with its neighbors. He hoped that the visit would help promote bilateral relations and understanding on various international issues, including Afghanistan.